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ABSTRACT

This publication describes the activities, events, and projects concerning foster child care in the United States reported in a survey. Included are sections on: Awards and Commendations; Action Committee Directory; Committee Reports; Action Week Programs; Citizen Advocacy Projects; Indian Foster Care; Foster Parent Education; Legislative Proposals, Resolutions and Policy Statements; Recent Studies of Foster Care Services; and an appendix that contains Proclamation 1975, Bill of Rights for Foster Children, Foster Parents Code of Ethics, and Children's Bureau Foster Care Objectives. (SB)

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PS 003660

NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

A SURVEY OF ACTIVITIES BASED ON REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES AND COMMITTEES

November 1974--December 1975

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Washington, D. C.

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INTRODUCTION

The Current NAFC Program

The National Action for Foster Children Program has been established as a means of strengthening community support and understanding of foster family services through the involvement of community people in addition to social workers and foster parents. Foster children are "children-at-risk." They cannot vote, and must depend on the goodwill and compassion of advocates to fight for their rights and to ensure that they have a chance to become good citizens.

Through Action Committees at state and local levels, concerned citizens act as advocates for foster children and lend assistance to social service agencies in improving the quality of services provided. The National Action for Foster Children Committee serves as a steering group for state and local committees. It is made up of representatives from 15 voluntary organizations.

As a strategy to improve foster family services for the more than 350,000 children in foster family care each year, and to increase resources for them, public awareness of the need for good service and the extent of present service inadequacies is of the utmost importance. Public awareness is developed through year-round public education efforts and through special once a year "Action for Foster Children Week" activities. Several kinds of informational materials are produced and distributed by the NAFC Committee to local Action Committees, public and private social agencies, foster parent associations, public officials and legislators at State and county levels, a wide range of voluntary and civic organizations, persons in the news media, churches, schools of social work, and interested individuals. The objective is not only to make these people aware of foster children's needs, but to involve them in taking action to see that the community meets those needs.

Citizen advocacy for foster children has a most serious purpose. First, we as citizens must see to it that no child is separated unnecessarily from his family, simply because emergency family services are not available; and that if placement is necessary, good casework will develop a placement plan for each child to enable a child to return within a reasonable time to his family under improved conditions, or if this is not possible, to find a child a suitable adoptive home; second, to offer opportunities for education to foster parents in caring for children, especially for those with special needs or problems.

The results of this national public awareness campaign over the past year has been a three-fold increase in activities for the benefit of foster children. Public social agencies in all 50 States have participated in NAFC activities, and many foster parent associations are assisting in convening Action Committees. There have been a number of advocacy projects initiated by voluntary organizations. Governors, Mayors, and legislators have endorsed Action Week observances and have ratified the Bill of Rights for Foster Children, which carries with it a commitment to improve services. This report is a compilation of data received from the states, local communities and advocacy groups on their efforts during the past year.

FOCUS - A Year-Round Action Plan

Beginning in FY'76 and following up on the ground work previously described, the major NAFC focus will be on the development of a plan of action for the year by each Action Committee. A follow-up report will be made to the community during the following "Action for Foster Children Week" as to what was attempted and what was accomplished. This, in turn, will be followed by realistic replanning for the succeeding year. In order to expand its program in these ways, and to continue in operation for the next several years, the National Action for Foster Children Committee has become incorporated and has been granted IRS tax exempt status as a non-profit, charitable organization. It is seeking private funding with a program proposal for $150,000 to cover the costs of a small paid staff and regional leadership training seminars for convenors of Action Committees. This proposal accompanied by explanatory materials has now been sent to 50 Foundations in an attempt to secure the necessary funds.

AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

National Action for Foster Children

Tribute
memorializing
Charles Thomson
merchant - scholar - patriot
former foster child

When a child loses his parents, the traumatic experience may mar his life forever unless a surrogate family steps in and provides him the love, the attention, and the encouragement that is the birthright of all children. With this loving environment, all children may rise to their full potential. And so it was with Charles Thomson who, at the age of ten, was taken in a home by a foster parent whose name is forever lost.

Charles Thomson became a successful merchant which, in time, permitted him to pursue other interests. He became a scholar and teacher of languages and gained renown as a translator of the Bible.

An early supporter of Independence, he became a confidant of the leaders of the cause and was the only man to serve as secretary of both the First and the Second Continental Congresses, serving a total of 15 years.

It is fitting, therefore, that in this Bicentennial Era of the founding of the United States and the 200th anniversary of the meeting of the Congress that he served, in the very room in Carpenters' Hall where the First Congress met, the National Action for Foster Children should honor the memory of a man whose life exemplifies the aims and the objectives of NAFC in calling attention to both the contribution of a foster parent and to the achievement of a "foster child who became a founding father."

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this 21st day of May, 1975, in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lillie E. Herndon

Barbara D. McGary — Howard M. Gary

Nora Gonzalez — Lucile L. Atkins

William J. Caldwell — Robert M. McClelland

Jean Kapner — Donald D. Dickey

Helen D. Stone — Jewell Lee Jr. Fonda

Ann M. Sherman — Mrs. James M. (Marie) Cox

Eugene Holman — Joyce Landis

Two small guests of honor at the NAFCC Action Week Commemorative Service hear the story of one of America's first foster children, Charles Thomson, from Ray McClelland (l.), NAFC Committee member and President-elect, and Rickie Bucciero, colonial host at Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia.

National Action for Foster Children Award Winners,
Grace Goddard, Raymond Edwards, Betty Davis,
Charles Goodall (with Mrs. Goodall), and Dr. Leon Leonard,
stand behind the desk of Charles Thomson, First Secretary of the
Continental Congress, in Carpenters' Hall,
Philadelphia, May 1975.

NAFC VOLUNTARY ACTION AWARDS - 1975

Annual NAFC Awards for Voluntary Action are presented each year during "Action Week" for outstanding advocacy to foster children by an individual and/or an organization. Special commendations are also given for distinguished advocacy in public education (TV/radio, newspaper journalism), for personal advocacy and for institutional change.

In May 1975 awards and commendations were presented to the following:

FOR OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY TO FOSTER CHILDREN

CHARLES GOODALL
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Since 1960, when he served as a member of a citizens' committee that helped organize the Child Welfare Advisory Board of Tulsa County, on which he served as the first president for two terms, Charles Goodall has shown a consistent and dedicated concern for the rights of all children, especially foster children. A member of the Tulsa County NAFC Committee last year, he is serving as its chairperson this year.

Still active on the Advisory Board, Goodall is chairman of both the foster-care and the child-abuse committees. His current project is to improve the methods of providing clothing for foster children, and he is working with the Tulsa County Foster Parents Association and the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission in this effort.

A busy executive in the electronic and the oil industries, Goodall is active in Jewish organizations on both the local and the national levels, with inter-faith organizations on the local and the state levels, and with a score of other civic and community organizations.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. CHAPTER
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Formed originally to stimulate the growth and the development of their own children through educational, cultural, civic, recreational, and social programs, the 26 mothers of the Jacksonville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, began their foster-care efforts by merely including foster children in their programs.

Realizing that this simple sharing of opportunity was not enough "involvement," the mothers decided to make their new foster-care concern a full-time project. Working with a small grant from their national headquarters, the Jacksonville group embarked on a multi-faceted program that included a Speakers' Bureau, recruiting, workshops, toy and clothing drives, cultural and sports activities, camping trips, "Y" memberships, and parties. In an 18-month period, services were provided for 179 children, more than three-fourths of the children in foster care in the county.

In providing these services for the foster children in conjunction with their efforts for their own children, the mothers were working closely with the Division of Family Services of the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitation Services. When the Jacksonville chapter embarked on its ambitious program, it was one of its stated objectives "to determine if a volunteer organization...can work with a public agency to provide improved care for children." This the chapter proved.

FOR DISTINGUISHED ADVOCACY TO FOSTER CHILDREN

DR. LEON LEONARD
Norman, Oklahoma

Dr. Leonard began his interest in foster care in Washington, when he took into his home a blind, brain-damaged girl and an emotionally disturbed boy. Both children came with him and his wife when they moved to Norman, Oklahoma, where he is now a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Oklahoma. When he realized that there was no short-term foster-care program in the community, he volunteered to organize, recruit, supervise, and administer such a program. Thus was born the Extended Families Program of Juvenile Services, Inc., of Cleveland County (it is completely voluntary). Dr. Leonard is chairperson of the Service Committee of the JSI and has been personally responsible for securing 40 foster homes. During this period, the Leonards--Mrs. Leonard is also a student at the University--have had nine foster children in addition to the original pair and their own two natural children.

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
Pinellas County, Florida

From its beginning in 1947 until 1970, the Juvenile Welfare Board provided all the funds for foster care in Pinellas County, Florida, at which time the state assumed this responsibility. The Board currently provides funding for 18 group-home parents and staff for children in a quasi-foster-care category; and, in cooperation with the Family Counseling Center, funds foster-care services for children hard to place for adoption. The Board's Parent and Child Effective Relations program is one of 11 child-abuse programs recently funded by the Office of Child Development. Though a public agency, the Juvenile Welfare Board consists of five lay members representing the community who serve without compensation and four exofficio members from various state youth-serving agencies.

GRACE GODDARD
Buffalo, New York

Mrs. Goddard, a reporter for the Buffalo Courier-Express, the largest newspaper in New York State, outside metropolitan New York city, not only has written extensive news and feature stories about foster care but also has become personally involved with foster-parent groups, social workers, and others as well as actually helping find homes for "hard-to-place" children. As a result of her efforts, her newspaper was among the first to regularly feature the needs of organizations seeking homes for both foster and adoptive children. She has supported the efforts of the United Foster Parents Association and has helped create for it a favorable image with the community.

JACK CARNEY
St. Louis, Missouri

A newscaster and host of his own program on the CBS-owned radio station KMOX, in St. Louis, Carney has devoted hours of air time to explain and support the efforts of Greater St. Louis Foster Parents Association, discuss the role of foster parents, and to present the needs of foster children. Working with placement agencies, Carney planned and implemented a recruiting and public-education program and regularly features on the air a child in need of a foster home. In addition to his on-air activities, he attends and participates in the activities of the foster-parent group.

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MRS. VIOLET KRASZEWSKI
Englishtown, New Jersey

For 15 years, Mrs. Kraszewski was a foster child, the last 10 in one home. The care and love that she received there made an indelible mark on her, and now, married with seven children, she is devoting her every spare moment toward helping foster children. Realizing that former foster children can have a positive effect on foster children by serving as a "model" of achievement, she helped to form and is president of the Former Foster Children's Organization of New Jersey. At first acting as a "big sister" in a direct relationship with foster children, she soon recognized the need for community education. Mrs. Kraszewski began a personal speaking tour before foster parents, foster children, social workers, and community colleges and organized planning workshops and conferences. The demands on her have been so great that she has now tape-recorded her message for distribution throughout the state. All of these duties are performed at her own expense.

ACTION COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

THE NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE, INC.

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Governor's Action For Foster Children Committee (Idaho)

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Lake Charles County Action for Foster Children (Louisiana)

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Montreal Action for Foster Children (Canada)

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Norfolk Action for Foster Children (Virginia)

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Tulare Action for Foster Children (California)

Chairman: Susan Gambini
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Tulsa County, Oklahoma, Action for Foster Children

Chairman: Charles Goodall
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Tulsa, Oklahoma

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARIZONA ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE

The Committee was formed in February 1975. Although it is a state-wide committee, activities to date have centered in Phoenix-Maricopa County.

The Committee's first task was putting support behind a number of badly needed state bills. One, an Adoption Subsidy Bill, was passed and signed into law. Members feel that the present level of state funding for foster care services is inadequate, and are working for an improved budget.

The Chairperson of the Action Committee has testified before the Advisory Council of the Arizona Department of Economic Security and before the State 4-C Committee with regard to the goals of National Action of Foster Children as determined by the needs of foster children in Arizona. The testimonies were well received and there is open cooperation.

The overall goals of the Arizona committee are to upgrade all foster care in the state, i.e., to work towards careful screening before a child enters foster care; to encourage early restoration of the child to the natural family with all the necessary aid being provided for the natural family; where restoration is impossible to quickly (within an agreed time limit--perhaps 18 months) execute severance and placement in an adoptive home; and, where this is not possible, to establish a contract for long-term foster care providing for the child.

Several sub-committees have been formed to (1) look at the care given to Indian foster children; (2) explore the possibility of contractual arrangements between private and public agencies to facilitate the severance of children needing to be placed in adoption; (3) help build a strong State Foster Parent Organization; (4) develop a training program for foster parents to be used by all agencies that use foster homes--both prelicensing and on-going training; (5) look at the care now provided in institutions and group home facilities.

In the fall, a committee to develop a recruiting program for new foster homes will be appointed. There is much to be done to upgrade foster care in the State of Arizona. Action for Foster Children is working with the Child Advocacy Coalition of Arizona, the State Four C's Committee, the Open Door Society, Adop-Co-op, and Arizona Families for Children--all citizens' groups advocating for children.

The immediate goals of the local committee are:

1. The establishment of a separate Children's Service Bureau.
2. The ratification of the Bill of Rights for Foster Children.
3. Securing legal rights for all children.
4. The setting of priorities within a caseworker's caseload; i.e., fewer cases for workers dealing with children with special problems and new placements.
5. The elimination of arbitrary geographic assignments of cases in order to help maintain continuity between caseworkers, children, natural and foster families.
6. The training of workers, particularly those without formal social work education.
7. The training of prospective foster parents before licensing and on-going training after placement of children.
8. The recruitment and retention of good foster homes.
9. A review of all adoption and severance policies.
10. The education of workers regarding all agency policies.
11. A computer tracking system for all children in foster care.
12. Contractual agreements with private agencies to effect severance and/or good long-term foster care.
13. The establishment of a citizens' review board at the county and state level.

MARYLAND ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN, INC.

Maryland Action for Foster Children, Inc., a state-wide committee established in 1973, instituted a suit against Governor Marvin Mandel, the State Comptroller and the State Budget Director, for failing to provide in the 1976 budget funding of HB 326 now part of the annotated code of Maryland, passed by the Legislature in its 1973-74 session, to become effective on July 1, 1975.

For this law, which would have raised reimbursements for foster care paid to foster parents to a realistic level, the Governor substituted an across-the-board increase of 10%.

This means that foster parents who were receiving $89 a month to feed and clothe a child of five will receive an increment amounting to only about 30 cents a day. This is insufficient relief for Maryland's foster parents. Already dipping into their own pockets, they are becoming overwhelmed by today's regulation.

The MAFC has been joined in the suit by the Maryland Conference of Social Concern, the Maryland Task Force on Welfare Reform, the Foster Parents Associations of Maryland, Baltimore City, and Baltimore County, and the Third Region of the National Foster Parents Association. Endorsements have come from the Maryland Children's Aid and Family Services.

A prominent Baltimore attorney donated his services in preparing the case, and one of Baltimore's outstanding law firms acted in an advisory capacity.

The preliminary hearing, held on December 4, ruled in favor of the Governor. The decision was based on a technicality under Maryland's Constitution which, since 1917, has vested broad authority for budget and funding in the executive branch, rather than the legislative. The Judge, in rendering his decision, however, advised that an appeal be made. The Committee has filed an appeal, and the Maryland General Assembly has provided funds for an attorney to act as Amicus Curiae in the case.

Other Events of Year: During the past year, the Maryland Committee presented a Foster Care Workshop in January 1975. A panel discussion with well-known sports commentator Jack Dawson as moderator, offered comments on popular misconceptions about foster care. Participating were a foster child, a foster mother, a natural parent with a child in foster care, and a social caseworker. Attendance numbered 152 people. About a dozen expressed an interest in becoming foster parents.

Cecil County organized a fund raising drive resulting in money to aid in the economic need of many foster parents who were on the rolls of the unemployed to meet emergency situations.

The Maryland Committee's reorganization is underway to fit the role of a state-wide organization. Ten regions have been selected for immediate concentration to expand the organization. These are Ann Arundel, Baltimore City, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Cecil, and Laurel.

The Committee has been assisted by a University of Maryland School of Social Work student on field assignment. Judith Leishman worked extensively with Cecil County in organizing the Conference on Caring. She is a Master's Degree candidate with a major in administration. She has done several organizational analyses for the Committee. In September, Ann H. Kahan, graduate student of the University of Maryland School of Social Work and Community Planning, joined the staff. She is assisting in the development of community committees, concentrating on Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County and Montgomery County at present.

The Maryland Action for Foster Children is the "first" state committee to be formed, the "first" to become incorporated and tax exempt, and the "first" to take a strong activist role to help foster parents help foster children. It has a steadily increasing membership of 200 individuals and 27 organizations.

OREGON COMMITTEE ON FOSTER CARE

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Established in October 1974, the purpose of the Committee on Foster Care is to educate the church and the wider community as to the facts, problems, issues and concerns of foster care, to develop foster care resources for public and private agencies, and to work to improve conditions for foster care providers. The Committee provides a forum for private and public agencies, churches and citizens to share information, to provide liaison and to generate ideas.

Concerns are family foster care for children from birth to the age of 18, or for those in training program, to 21.

The Committee called for immediate implementation of Children's Services Division standards, for:

1. Increased personnel to render adequate service to children, natural parents, and foster parents, with case loads according to the standard of the Child Welfare League of America, i.e. 50 children per case load;

2. Increased funds for support services for foster parents and children-counseling, clothing, food, medical, dental, and psychiatric treatment, training of foster parents; also funds for special needs such as transportation, education, and needs of the exceptional child;

and urged the establishment of more foster group homes as rapidly as possible.

The committee recommended clearer lines of communication between the foster child, his parents, the foster parents, the Foster Parents Association, and the public and private agencies.

Four groups - were established within the committee; Preventive, Alternatives, Community Education and Legislative.

In May, 1974, the task force on Foster Homes issued the following policy statement:

"The Task Force on Foster Homes of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has decided to stop recruiting foster homes temporarily. Instead, we will try to change the conditions under which foster parents must work.

"For over two years we have met, studied facts, talked with foster parents and caseworkers and their administrators, publicized information, recruited foster homes, called a conference, and attended an all-day legislative hearing on foster care. We feel we can not, in good conscience, ask anyone to work under the conditions of frustration and inadequate funds which foster parents must face. We believe it is asking too much, and becomes unfair to foster parents, as well as to the child and his parents.

"We believe much more needs to be done by counseling and giving back-up help to parents to prevent the need for foster care placement, however we will also work to improve and change the conditions of foster care, especially regarding support money, caseloads, and medical-dental services.

"We are defining our specific goals in our meetings now.

"We have found that there is much misunderstanding regarding foster care. Foster parents are paid no salary. They receive from $79 to $125 per month, depending upon the age of the child, as support payments to cover the child's room and utilities, his food, clothing, recreation allowance, and personal incidentals. The amount paid is 92% of the minimum living standard as of spring 1973. Many foster parents add their own money to supplement the support payments. Caseworkers have 80 families to care for - an impossible number for even minimum servicing.

"Medical and dental allowances are too small, often half or less of a doctor's usual charge. The foster parent who continues fostering finds it more and more difficult to persuade a doctor to care for her new foster child. Taking a child to the Medical School means long waits - hard enough for the patient, and hard, too, for the foster parent who endures it with him, with no compensation for their time.

"Most foster homes are recruited by foster parents, another service for which they receive no compensation. The number of resignations of foster parents is equal to the number recruited, month after month, leaving a constant shortage of between 100 and 150 foster homes each month in Multnomah County. Children stay in their own physically or

emotionally unsafe homes, or in unsuitable institutions, or with friends, or sometimes even arrange their own living accommodations. Funds for group homes, which care for more difficult children, are half that requested of the Legislature by Children's Services Division.

"From May 1973 to April 1974 there were an average of 21.8 homes per month that were recruited and for that same period there were an average of 21.8 homes closed. These statistics are from Children's Services Division of Multnomah County.

"Our concern for the children remains, and we are cognizant of the hurt which unplaced childred will undergo during this period of non-recruitment through the churches. Yet this hurt is minimal and temporary in relationship to the hurt that the 4,500 foster children in Oregon are undergoing with the present conditions. We sincerely feel that until the conditions are changed, this is the most meaningful way to help these children. We hope to begin recruitment again as soon as there is any secure plan for change.

"We hope you will pray very earnestly with your community of Christians about this heavy problem of our State, and that you will talk about it and inform people at every opportunity."

C.A.A.T. (CHILDREN'S AGENCIES ACTING TOGETHER)

Dobbs Ferry, New York

C.A.A.T. (Abbot House, Adoption & Children's Service of Westchester, Inc., Cardinal McCloskey Home for Children, The Children's Village, New York State Division for Youth, and St. Christopher's School) was formed in the fall of 1973. At that time, the goal was for volunteer agencies and the County Department of Family Services of Westchester to join for the purpose of recruiting foster parents during National Action Week.

As the organization developed, it became apparent that there were other multiple advantages to be gained from this association. A sharing of problems began to take place with an occasional exchange of families whose needs might be better served by another agency. The facilities of each agency were offered in a cooperative spirit for resources, materials, and meetings. The desire to inform the public of the unique problems of foster children became a paramount goal. A new recruitment program was worked up. A brochure and flyers along with display ads were printed. Executives of Ayers advertising agency volunteered their advice. The Junior Leagues of Westchester again gave their support. Members underwent four training sessions on foster care before monitoring and screening telephone calls on a telephone specially set up for C.A.A.T. during National Action Week. All applicants were given a date to attend one of four orientation meetings. These meetings were led by different C.A.A.T. members. Talk shows featuring foster families and children, as well as newspaper, radio, and TV announcements were used to advantage.

The Mental Health Association of Westchester gave a kickoff luncheon for C.A.A.T. prior to National Action Week. Guests at the luncheon were local community organization leaders, county legislators, and representatives of the news and radio media - State Senator Joseph Pisani, and Westchester County Family Court Judge Matthew F. Cappola, were guest speakers. Mrs. Cameron, Director of C.A.A.T., read a proclamation by County Executive Alfred DelBello for National Action Week.

C.A.A.T. has grown in its second year and in the future it looks to organizing foster parent training in one of Westchester's local colleges. The Mental Health Association and the Junior Leagues of Westchester have been meaningful in their support and C.A.A.T. looks forward to their aid in the future.

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GREATER MILWAUKEE FOSTER CARE COMMITTEE (WISCONSIN)

606 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

The Greater Milwaukee Foster Care Committee is a standing committee composed of representatives from each of the child placing agencies, both public and private, in the Greater Milwaukee area, and two representatives from the foster parent organization.

The purpose of the Committee is to improve the services and circumstances of children in foster care through communication and understanding between foster parents and agencies, by adopting foster care standards in accordance with Child Welfare League of America Guidelines, and by working together as a group in completing tasks and solving problems which may arise within an agency.

The Committee is also concerned with mutual understanding and sharing between agencies, in improving relationships with its State Division of Family Service, and in speaking out, as one voice, on legislative and other issues which arise with respect to foster care.

Established within the Committee are subcommittees on legislation, on rate review (to assure equal and fair reimbursements to foster parents), on foster parent recognition, and on program and service.

The Committee was established 15 years ago, but its focus has changed as needs have changed. In the past five years, the Committee has become more active in promoting public awareness and understanding of the foster care system. At the present time, the Committee is concerned with support of a proposed revision of the Children's Code, and with a pending state bill which would make mandatory the education of foster parents.

JACKIE

Coordinating Director:
Marilyn Borchard

It was because of the needs of homeless children that JACKIE was formed in 1948. This community, volunteer organization was founded by Father James Murray of Catholic Social Services to educate the community about foster care and find potential foster parents for dependent children. The children needing foster homes are of all religions and races.

Recently the JACKIE Committee has also become the San Francisco Action Committee for Foster Children. In this capacity, they work closely with San Francisco Foster Parents United, and support the efforts of the California State Foster Parent Association and the National Foster Parent Association to speak for the right of all foster children to be given an opportunity to become responsible valued adults.

These goals are implemented by media presentations to inform the community about foster care and explain the need for foster parents, a newsletter to keep members of the community informed about foster care programs, and personal contacts with legislators, administrators, and other community groups.

GOVERNOR'S
ACTION COMMITTEE ON
FOSTER CARE
Boise, Idaho

The newly formed Governor's Action Committee on Foster Care met for the first time on October 8, 1975 to begin initial planning for an in-depth study of foster care in Idaho.

For some time, many persons with specific concerns for foster care problems in this area have recognized the need for a detailed, yet objective study of foster care within the state. Formation of the Committee is the first step toward reaching this objective.

The Committee is jointly sponsored by the Boise Junior League, the Idaho Foster Parents Association, and The Casey Family Program. In addition to others from the community, its membership includes three representatives from The Casey Family Program: Mr. Art Dodson, Director of the Idaho Division, and two members of the Idaho Advisory C[illegible] Mrs. Jan Koch and Dr. W.J. Ewing.

Dr. Howard Schrag, former Director of the Office of Child Development, has been instrumental in initiating and coordinating the effort. He will serve as Chairman of the Committee.

Questions to be considered by the group will include: How many foster children in Idaho really need long-term care placements? What is the average length of foster care? How many times is the average foster child moved while in placement? What types of resources are required within the state to properly handle our foster care needs?

Input by the Committee will form the design for a comprehensive report on foster care in Idaho. It is anticipated that the information could be used by the Idaho Legislature and others to vastly improve the quality of services to foster children in our area.

CHEROKEE ACTION COMMITTEE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN (NORTH CAROLINA)

The Eastern Cherokee Indians on the Qualla Boundary in Western North Carolina completed the third year of citizen involvement with continued enthusiastic committee action. Such action, they are convinced, is resulting in a better deal for children who must live away from their natural parents. "We hope that through our activities and concern we are raising the level of public awareness of the needs of Foster Children," Mrs. Lou Crowe, convenor of the group, explained. "Because of our unique situation, we have reason to believe we are making some small impact on the national as well as the local level," she continued.

The Qualla Boundary, better known as the Cherokee Indian Reservation, is located on the edge of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Eight million tourists visited the area during 1975. The Action Committee is convinced that the public is unaware of the plight of many children who never have the security of psychological parents because they are caught in a web of insecurity. The group has therefore sought to bring the story of these children to the visitors by various methods:

1. They have produced two films in which the story of foster children is interwoven with the heritage and culture of the Cherokee people. These films are shown as a part of the evening entertainment in the campgrounds on the Reservation and are distributed to other communities upon request.

2. At intervals throughout the year bake sales and Flea markets were held on the Village parking lot at which time inquisitive tourists asked questions as a result of NAFC posters and literature displayed.

3. The Committee members greeted fishermen at 4:00 a.m. on the opening day of the fishing season with breakfast served from their lunch wagon parked near the Tribal fish ponds.

4. A full length movie, The Trial of Billy Jack, was shown at the Civic Center for residents and visitors.

The funds accumulated from these activities has been placed in a scholarship fund for Foster Children. The fund was further increased by one of the Committee members' donation of her share of the Cherokee Indian Claims payment which was made to all enrolled members during the year.

Seven committee members attended the Fifth National Conference of Foster Parents Association in Atlanta, Georgia in May. They are now working with other North Carolina Foster Parents Associations to establish a N.C. State Foster Parents Association. Two planning meetings have been held in Raleigh, N.C.

The group has been instrumental in the formation of a local review Board to assist the social workers in periodic review of the situations of all children in foster care and/or in need of protective services. In this manner citizen input is combined with professional skill to provide the best possible alternative for the child who must be separated from his/her natural parents. Community resources are made available to strengthen the family life for the return of the child to his/her own home wherever possible.

RHODE ISLAND TASK FORCE FOR NAFC

In February 1975, a Task Force for Action for Foster Children was established by the Rhode Island Coalition for Children's Rights, for the purpose of unifying efforts on the part of several groups in the State which are interested in foster children. The group represented at the Task Force's first meeting were:

The Junior League of Providence
Rhode Island Legislative Committee on Foster Care
Rhode Island Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Rhode Island Foster Parent Association
Council of Community Services
Rhode Island Coalition for Children's Rights

Mrs. Jean Martin was appointed Chairperson of the Task Force.

The Task Force set as its goals for the coming year: (1) education; first, of the community-at-large to create community awareness of the issues; and second, education for foster parents; (2) communication between foster parents and social workers. It was hoped to establish a joint in-service training opportunity for foster parents and caseworkers; (3) legislation; the Committee feels the need to impress upon the legislature the importance of more adequate support for foster parents. Concern was also expressed for the guardian-ad-litem role in the courts, and a desire to see the role of the natural father clarified.

The Junior League of Providence, on a volunteer basis, is undertaking a project entitled "Concern for Children in Placement" reviewing the status of all children in Rhode Island in foster homes with the objective of preventing a child's becoming "lost" in the system.

The Committee's program is year-round, with Action Week as a special period for public awareness efforts. In this regard the services of Mr. Anthony Ferri, Public Relations Director, Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, were obtained.

Another concern of the Task Force is meeting the special education needs of many foster children. The Committee will invite a representative from the field of special education to join, and someone from corrections and mental health as well.

It was decided by the Committee that a slide presentation prepared for community groups would be a useful public education tool, with questions and answers, such as, What are foster parents? What are foster children? What is needed for rehabilitation? What is the role of the social worker?

Planning for foster parent education continues with the help of Dr. Eunice Schatz, professor at Rhode Island College. There is presently an informal curriculum given by students of nursing from Salve Regina College, which emphasizes child development. The class is held in peoples' homes in an informal atmosphere.

TULARE COUNTY ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Tulare County has formed its first Action for Foster Children Committee. Members of that committee include:

Foster Parent, Susan Gambini, Chairman
Child Protective Services, Alice Thompson, Co-Chairman
Child Protective Services, Judy Casson, Co-Chairman
Visalia Unified School District, Robert Line
Businessman, foster parent, Barry Gambini
Probation Department, Ralph Pizarro
KONG, Ken Hawthorne (Radio Accouncer)
Visalia Times Delta, Shirley Melikian

Tulare County chose as its goal for Action Week the recruitment of several new foster homes and an expanded awareness of what fostering is all about. The slogan, "You don't have to be a foster parent to help a foster child," solicited community involvement.

The teachers of Tulare County were asked to work with the Committee in making the total adjustment of foster children as easy as possible. Many foster children need special attention. Their adjustment may seem excellent in the home while it is the teacher who is experiencing the problem. Many foster parents have never had children in school before. They need help and understanding.

PUBLICITY: For Action Week

Early news releases spotlighted the information and goals of the committee. The newspapers followed these with editorials and feature stories. A series of stories were offered during "Action Week" that included interviews with agency personnel, a foster teen, an ex-foster child now foster parent, a natural parent, and a foster family.

Radio coverage consisted of four separate interviews. Television exposure was limited to one talk show. Public service announcements were taped and run on several radio stations.

A panel of speakers was provided for civic organizations. A concentrated effort was made to approach as many groups as possible.

Miscellaneous publicity included brochures and posters throughout the county; bookmarks depicting the goal were distributed to audiences; news fillers focusing on the facts and goals of the committee were issued on local publications, i.e., church bulletins.

SPECIAL EVENTS: A Zoo trip and picnic by foster parents and children to kick off the week.

Declaration of Action Week by the County Board of Supervisors.

Foster Parent Bake Sale to raise scholarship funds. Ratification of The Bill of Rights For Foster Children by the Board of Supervisors.

Reception at the Child Protective Services in recognition of all foster parents. Three outstanding foster families honored and presented plaques.

Tulare County annual Agency-Foster Parent picnic.

FOLLOW-UP: Enlarge activities and expand coverage. Draw on more community resources.

Encourage closer communication between Foster Parents and Staff by means of continued monthly meetings. These meetings to expand into more in-service training.

Retain active panel of speakers and solicit more contacts.

EVALUATION: The overall effect of the first Action Committee efforts were favorable. It was felt that goals were attained. A large portion of the county was touched in some manner by the campaign. The series of articles was the most effective, resulting in several new homes being licensed.

Radio exposure was instrumental in dispelling many misconceptions regarding foster care. It gave the best opportunity to discuss foster care in a relaxed way.

Areas of weakness became evident when it was realized how centralized coverage was. The Committee feels it was overly cautious about spreading its efforts too thinly. Next year, efforts will go deeper into the outlying areas. The rural area creates its own special problems. Because this was the first effort, it could only be a success. Next year will be a bigger challenge. The emphasis will remain the same. Expansion will occur.

In brief, goals were met. Several new homes were licensed. The exact number will not be known until all processes are complete. Awareness has been extended substantially.

TULSA COUNTY ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Action Week highlights: Governor Boren and Mayor LaFortune (Tulsa) issued a proclamation in observance of Action Week. The Oklahoma State House of Representatives called attention to Action Week by offering a citation for foster parents and social agencies who provide services for foster children.

Charles Goodall, Chairperson of the Tulsa Action for Foster Children Committee, received the NAFC Voluntary Action Award for Outstanding Advocacy to Foster Children, presented by the NAFC Committee in Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Goodall was honored in Tulsa by a benefit dinner, funds from which were used for a scholarship for one of Tulsa County's deserving foster children to further his or her education.

A citation was also presented to Mr. Goodall by the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

The Tulsa Action Committee has as a 1974 goal, an increase in the foster care reimbursement rate. Through the combined efforts of the Action Committee, the Children's Advisory Board, and the Tulsa County Foster Parent Association, the reimbursement rate was increased in February, 1975.

Action Committee goals for 1975-76 are to continue scholarship fund raising, with the hope that the scholarship can be awarded every year; a continuation of a public awareness program on the needs of foster children and for the recruitment of good foster homes; continuation of efforts to secure additional legal representation for foster children so that their rights and interests will be fully protected.

Several recreational events were sponsored during Action Week for Foster Children, and media coverage was exceptionally good.

ACTION WEEK ACTIVITIES

(May 18 - 24, 1975)

ARIZONA

Sponsor: Arizona Action for Foster Children Committee
Scottsdale, Arizona

National Action Week was observed in Arizona. The governor as well as the mayors of several cities signed proclamations with regard to NAFC Week. There were two spots on the evening news and invitations to make the needs of foster kids known on three local talk shows. All the TV stations and several radio stations carried the spot announcements that NAFC supplied. The highlight of the week was a general information meeting held on May 22 for all people interested in adoption and/or foster care. This meeting was publicized in the paper and on TV and we mailed letters to the 600 families that had made inquiry to public and private agencies regarding the Vietnamese orphans. Over 350 people attended this meeting. The impact of it is hard to determine. We had hoped to turn many people's attention to the needs of kids right here and to the rewards of foster care. Of course, this is not something that is done in one meeting, so the results may be a long way off. We did find new volunteers for our local NAFC committee, and the Open Door Society, which cooperated with us, gained many new members also.

The Arizona Republic ran a three-part series entitled "Foster Care--Are the Children Lost?" It was a well-documented article. Much publicity was done in smaller city papers as well.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles County

Sponsor: Department of Public Social Services
Community Assistance to Homeless Youngsters (C.A.T.H.Y.)
Program

National Action for Foster Children activities are ongoing throughout the year, with one week set aside each year to focus community attention at the local level on the goals and objectives of this national organization.

An Ad Hoc Committee was set up to mobilize community interest and participation in these events. Serving on this Committee were representatives of the Children's Bureau of Los Angeles, Department of Adoptions, California State Foster Parent Association, Los Angeles County Foster Parent Association, and presidents of the 13 Los Angeles County individual Foster Parent Associations, community volunteers, and representatives of the other counties in the Southern Regional section, NAFC of California - Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Kern and San Bernardino.

There were four main events during this Activities Week which were as follows:

1. Foster Family Day at Magic Mountain - May 18, 1975. Magic Mountain is an amusement park in the northwest area of the San Fernando Valley. Tickets for foster parents were discounted, while children under three years were admitted free. This included unlimited use of more than fifty exciting rides and attractions. The 4500 foster family members attending this event had a marvelous time.

2. Ratification Ceremony and the Official Proclamation of Action for Foster Children Week - May 19, 1975.

The ratification of the Bill of Rights and the official Proclamation of the Action for Foster Children Week, by the City of Los Angeles, was held on the steps of City Hall, on May 19, 1975. Mr. Ellis P. Murphy, Director of the Department of Public Social Services, represented the Department and made a brief speech. The Honorable Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles, announced the Proclamation of May 18-24, 1975 as Action for Foster Children Week. After he completed his address he presented a copy of the Proclamation to each of the 26 foster children forming his Honor Guard.

Dave Michaels, (KABC - A.M. America) read the Bill of Rights, Article by Article, and asked the audience to join with him in the reading.

Neil Ierien, President of the Los Angeles County Foster Parent Association, presented awards to Ernest Debbs, former Supervisor of Los Angeles County, and to the Junior Chamber of Commerce, for their continuing interest in and services to the foster children of Los Angeles County.

At the close of the program, a reception was held in the Mayor's conference room, hosted by the Department of Social Services' C.A.T.H.Y. volunteers. The centerpiece on the service table was reproduction in ice of the NAFC logotype - Mother and Child, created by a C.A.T.H.Y. volunteer.

3. Lion Country Safari - May 24, 1975. This was another county-wide family event held in Orange County for which discount tickets were available to foster families. This was an exciting and interesting day for everyone. There were over 3000 foster family members present.

4. Foster Family Picnic - May 31, 1975. The culminating event of this period was the 11th Annual Foster Family Picnic, co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Public Social Service. Two thousand foster parents and children attended this event. In addition to refreshments, each child at the picnic received a gift provided through community contributions. There was a very full and active agenda for the day ranging from carnival games, through races, band concert and a pie eating contest to a happy though tired departure at the end of the day.

In Los Angeles County this year there has been an acute shortage of foster homes for 24-hour emergency care - Good Neighbor Homes, as

well as for teenage and infant homes. C.A.T.H.Y. has the ongoing responsibility for recruiting foster homes and retaining them. This is done through using all available sources of community contacts and all aspects of the media. Following the intensified publicity of the weeks preceding the NAFC Activities Week, 1800 calls were received about foster care in the month of May.

Other worthwhile activities in Los Angeles County during the year as provided through DPSS C.A.T.H.Y. volunteers were:

> A Central Clothes Closet has been maintained where all foster parents in the county may come for supplemental children's clothing, to which all Foster Parent's Associations and volunteer C.A.T.H.Y. Associations contribute money and clothes.
>
> During the Christmas season many areas in the County had a Sugar Plum Tree where community members contributed gifts to be placed on the tree for foster children.
>
> One area received $10,000 of in-kind donations. Another area of the County has set up a special fund which is used to meet unmet needs of foster children - college books, glasses, etc.
>
> There is also the Child Toy Bank for Foster Children, primarily for the children in the Good Neighbor Homes (Emergency Shelter Care). Another special service for foster children and their families is the C.A.T.H.Y. Blood Bank available to all foster families and the families of the C.A.T.H.Y. volunteers.
>
> Films and speeches are provided for community organizations and business and professional clubs.

Proclamations for Action for Foster Children Week were obtained from the following cities in Los Angeles County: Beverly Hills, Carson, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Montebello, Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Santa Fe Springs, Santa Monica, and Torrance.

Tulare County

Sponsor: Tulare County Action for Foster Children Committee

The Chairperson of the Tulare County Action Committee requested and secured a public proclamation on Action Week by the County Board of Supervisors. The Board also adopted a resolution in support of "A Bill of Rights for Foster Children."

During Action Week, information about the Committee and its goals were publicized through a number of editorials and feature stories in county newspapers. Radio coverage included four interview shows, television and radio public service announcements. The local television station programmed a talk show. Brochures and posters were distributed to the public and news fillers were inserted in church bulletins.

A panel of speakers was provided for civic organization meetings and a concentrated effort was made to reach as many groups as possible. (Further information on the Tulare Action Committee may be found in the section on Action Committee reports.)

Santa Clara

Sponsor: The Department of Social Services

The main event of Action Week was a salute to foster parents at a dinner honoring 240 foster parents and Social Services Department staff. The guest speaker, the United States Magistrate of the Northern District of California, Nordin F. Blocke, chose as his subject the book "Beyond the Best Interests of the Child" (Goldstein, Freud and Solnit).

The Santa Clara Board of Supervisors issued a general proclamation for Action Week.

Media coverage included four newspaper articles, television and radio spot announcements and a three-minute taped interview on one radio station.

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

Action Week Goals and Activities

The second Annual Action for Foster Children Week in Montreal was held April 13 - April 19, 1975.

A. Goals: Generally to improve the quality of services to foster children and their families.

Specifically, to sensitize and educate the community to the issues of foster care: To recruit foster homes. The focus was on recruiting homes for the difficult to place child.

: To strengthen and recognize foster parents.

: Public awareness on the causes of family breakdown which, at times, can lead to foster care.

: Coordination of both French and English Community around the concerns of child welfare.

B. Activities During Action For Foster Children Week to fulfill the above-mentioned goals:

1. Foster Parent Symposium - April 13, 1975. This third annual Symposium of Workshops and Discussion Groups for Foster parents, natural parents and community members was held at the Sheraton Mount Royal Hotel. Dr. Sam Rabinovitch, noted child psychologist, was the guest speaker.

   A parallel symposium for French foster parents was held as well.

2. Information Nights on Fostering, open to the general public for those interested in learning more about foster care and its implications were held April 13, 1975 at the Children's Service Centre, and April 15 at Catholic Family & Children's Services.

3. Rights of Children Evening - April 16, 1975. This event was a "first" for the Action for Foster Children Week Committee. The Evening's speakers were Mr. Phillipe de Massey (lawyer), Dr. Yolande Tanguay (child psychiatrist), and Ms. Margaret Ann Smith (Assistant Director of Social Service at the Montreal Children's Hospital). This evening proved to be thought-provoking and was attended by approximately 150 members of the community who were concerned about what is happening to children right here in Quebec.

4. Coffee Parties. A few neighborhood coffee parties were organized by foster parents during Action Week. These informal gatherings proved to be an important way of informing the community as to what foster care is all about.

5. Foster Parent Dinner Dance - April 19, 1975. A dinner dance for foster parents, staff and community volunteers of all participating agencies was held at the Sheraton Mount Royal Hotel. Noted TV personality, Mr. Earl Pennington of "Excuse My French" fame was the guest of honor. It was the feeling of all who attended that a foster parent dance should be an annual affair.

6. Helicopter Rides for Foster Children.

7. Radio, Television and Press Coverage.

C. On-Going Efforts

The Action for Foster Children Committee's membership includes staff, foster parents and volunteers from the following agencies: Catholic Family & Children's Services, Children's Service Centre, West Island Area Division, Foster Home Recruiting Centre, Centre de Placement Familial, Jewish Child & Family Services, Douglas Hospital Children's Service, Canada Health & Welfare - Medical Health Services Division.

The events planned this year attempted to involve more natural parents and interested community members on planning committees. These efforts will be continued in the next year.

A change in structure of the Action for Foster Children Committee is being proposed for the year 1975 - 1976.

The establishment of a year-round Action for Foster Children Committee is proposed. The composition of this committee should be represented by Social Service Centre Board members, a social service staff representative, agency staff, foster parents plus community volunteers and natural parents. More involved and active government support on both provincial and municipal levels will be sought this year.

This outline for Committee structure is a beginning towards the development of local Action Committees comprised of citizens outside the field of child care who can lend support, influence and expertise in planning and bring about reforms and additional services to foster care programs. In this way a broader base of advocacy for foster children can be developed, as well as better public understanding and support.

FLORIDA

Gainesville

Sponsor: Foster Parent Association of North Central Florida

Action Week was a time to enlist volunteers to work with foster children as "special friends" or in cultural enrichment activities.

It is hoped that a permanent Action Committee will result from this program.

Publicity included radio spot announcements, news articles and editorials, displays of posters and billboards.

Action Week was supported by the Mayor's Proclamation, issued at the City Commissioners' meeting.

GEORGIA

Savannah

Sponsors: Chatham County Foster Parent Association, with the assistance of the Department of Family and Child Services

The Chatham County FPA chose Action Week as a time to recruit a committee of interested, responsive citizens with religious training or legal and medical knowledge to serve as advocates for foster children.

Public service announcements on foster care appeared on five radio and two television stations. There was an additional "talk show," and newspapers carried articles and a Letter to the Editor from the FPA President.

On the lighter side, the Chatham County FPA sponsored a picnic at a nearby lake resort for foster children and their families.

Bainbridge

Sponsor: Decatur County Department of Family and Children Services

Goals of Action Week were recruiting volunteers and raising funds for scholarships for foster children, and recruiting foster parents.

Two radio stations carried announcements of Action Week. Foster parents set up an information booth in a shopping mall. A bake sale brought in money for the scholarship fund.

IDAHO

Boise

Sponsor: The Casey Family Program
The Foster Parent Association
The Department of Health and Welfare

A Foster Care Fair was held in a large enclosed shopping mall twenty miles from Boise. The site was chosen because of inclement weather and because of its location between several urban centers.

The Mall Merchants' Association provided booths for each of the three participating agencies, which were decorated with signs and posters. The Department of Health and Welfare used a videotape monitor to show short "spots" on foster care. Fund raising was accomplished through a raffle of hand-made articles, and through the sale of balloons and bumper stickers.

KANSAS

Leavenworth

Leavenworth's Mayor issued an Action Week Proclamation. The Leavenworth Times printed a "Salute to Foster Parents" by the women's page editor, and there was a radio talk show about foster care.

Abilene

Sponsor: The Dickinson County Foster Parent Organization

The main thrust of Action Week activities was informing the general public of the special needs of foster children, and with the role of foster parents in order to gain support and understanding for better services.

Dickinson County newspapers carried a feature story on foster care, and the local radio station programmed a 30-minute interview with placement workers and foster parents. The Abilene High School designed a special Action Week poster which was displayed in a centrally located store window.

LOUISIANA

Lake Charles (Acadia, Allen Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis Parishes)

Sponsor: Lake Charles Area Division of Family Services, and The Lake Charles Jaycees

Action Week Goals: To encourage community interest in services to foster children; recruitment of foster homes for special needs; aid in establishment of local foster parent organizations.

Activities and Community Participation: The Lake Charles Jaycees organized a local Action Committee as their yearly civic project. Members of the foster parent organization assisted in distribution of recruitment material. Local churches aided the recruitment effort through church announcements regarding the need for foster homes.

Publicity and Proclamation: Local mayors issued proclamations with television and newspaper coverage of the event. Articles and feature stories were also published in local papers announcing NAFC Week, the role of parents in the community, and the participation of a local civic organization in NAFC activities. Advertisements were also made through marquee ads and televised spot announcements.

New Orleans

Sponsor: Foster Parents Association of Greater New Orleans

The Foster Parents Association of Greater New Orleans was responsible for obtaining a Mayor's Proclamation for Action Week and a commitment to observe this week each year. Foster parents with children who have physical handicaps are seeking special training through the use of Title XX funds.

The New Orleans FPA has as its goal expanding the participation in Action Week in surrounding areas. Mrs. Marie Schinderer, Chairman of NAFC Week, appeared on radio and TV to introduce the program to listeners and viewers.

Baton Rouge

Sponsor: Baton Rouge 4-C Committee and Foster Parent Association

Action Week Activities centered around recruitment of foster homes, increasing public understanding and support of foster care services, and appreciation of foster parents.

The Mayor signed an Action Week Proclamation at a special ceremony which was covered by radio and television.

McDonald's presented 100 McDonald certificates to local foster children.

MARYLAND

Cecil County

Sponsor: Cecil County Action for Foster Children, Elkton, Maryland

Highlighting Action Week in Cecil County was the second annual Conference on Caring which was attended by groups, organizations and interested individuals from across the state. The conference theme was "A Need to Show Our Concern and Our Resources," and dealt with improving the quality of life through services to families and children by means of health policies, environmental conservation, juvenile justice, etc.

Participating speakers and sponsors represented the League of Women Voters, the Cecil County NAACP, the Maryland State Police, the Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Health, Paroles and Pardons, the Maryland Action for Foster Children Committee, and Universities of Maryland and Delaware.

Workshops and discussion groups during the two-day conference focused on foster care, child abuse, juvenile justice, family economics and health, and many other subjects.

(Note: Additional information on Maryland Action for Foster Children may be found in the Section on Action Committees.)

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Sponsors: Wayne County Department of Social Services and Foster Parents for Progress

A highlight of Action Week in Detroit was a youth conference organized by foster children with the help of their foster parents and social workers from the Wayne County Department of Social Services.

Conference workshops were closed to adults, because the children wanted to be able to talk freely about their problems, their fears, and their uncertainties.

It all began when Mr. and Mrs. Jensen took their two foster children, Loretta, 12, and Robbie, 9, to the Michigan State Foster Parents Conference last February. The children were impressed. "Why can't foster children have a conference?" they asked. "Parents have conferences, social workers have conferences to talk about us. Why shouldn't we have a conference to talk about them?"

It sounded like a fine idea, so foster parents and social workers offered to help. Dominican High School donated the use of its facilities, and area merchants, and the local 4-C Committee contributed to a sit-down, fried-chicken lunch. There were posters and information booths for the grown-ups.

Parents persuaded the children to invite them to the wrap-up session. Otherwise, they asked, "How will we know what is bothering you?"

What emerged from the workshops was that most of the children liked the foster parents they were with -- hardly unusual, since the kind of foster parents that people tell horror stories about would surely not bring their children to such a conference. There were some horror stories from the past, however. One child told of being put in the basement for five days. Another said that at one home he had

done all of the chores while the natural children did nothing.

Many of the children felt embarrassed about their situation. One of the hardest things about being a foster child, they said, was being called a foster child.

The children talked a great deal about the uncertainties that accompany their status. They suggested that foster parents should take time at the beginning to explain house rules to them -- what they are expected to do, what the punishments are, etc. Each foster home, they said, involves learning a new way of life, down to such small details as different ways of setting the table. Another problem was the feeling, "you become property not only of your foster parents, but also the state of Michigan," one child said. As a result, the children need releases before they can be identified by name as foster children, and they require clothing allowances in order to buy clothes, and they never know for sure where they will be living next year.

In one workshop, children performed in skits. One was about arriving at a new foster home.

"Usually a kid comes to the foster home," one teen-age girl explained, "and the social worker says 'Hi, nice to see you, how are you, here's the kid, she did such and such, good-by, don't call me until Monday!'"

"A foster child comes home from school; she finds her box packed, and the mother says, 'You're leaving in five minutes' The child asks, "Why am I going?' and the foster mother replies, 'It doesn't matter. You're going anyway.'"

This incident illustrates one of the major feelings of the children -- the idea that they should be consulted on what is happening to them. Brenda Coleman, a social worker with the Wayne County Department of Social Services, said, "One of the things they were really concerned about was why couldn't they go visit a home before placement." One child explained, "When you're placed in a foster home, you're not usually asked the kind of people you'd like to live with. And who do you talk to if you want to get out?" The children said they felt tugged between many forces -- their natural parents, the social worker, and what they want for themselves. Some children resented the natural children in the foster home.

Social workers also came in for criticism. "A good social worker," said Matthew,"is one who tries to understand people."

Loretta Jensen read a poem she wrote which expressed her feelings. It began, "Why am I here? What have I done? Wasn't I good enough for my family?" (From article by Judith Serrin, staff writer for the Detroit Free Press.)

MINNESOTA

Sponsor: The Minnesota Department of Public Welfare

The NAFC Communications Kit was sent to a number of organizations in the State for use in establishing local Action Committees. A similar message was sent by the State Foster Parent Association's President to 21 county foster parent organizations.

The Minnesota Association of Voluntary Social Service Agencies prepared a news release on foster family services which was sent to public information officers in 60 county welfare departments for insertion in local newspapers, or for use in radio and television interviews.

St. Louis County Foster Parents and social workers manned an information booth for five days at three local shopping malls.

In Clay County, Action Week was proclaimed by the Mayor of Moorhead and by the Clay County Board of Commissioners.

In Fargo, the radio station programmed a talk show with foster parents and social workers taking part. There were two television discussion programs with foster parents.

Notices were posted on bulletin boards in the Court House, Welfare Office, and in several churches. Small lapel pins were distributed with the slogan "Foster Care is Sharing."

Activities in the Minnesota Iron Range Country, Northern St. Louis County, were as follows:

A. For 1975, activities held during NAFC Week were located mainly in the City of Virginia and the Village of Hibbing. An information and recruiting booth was staffed at both the Hibbing and Virginia shopping malls. The Range Foster Parent Association President from Chisholm and another experienced foster parent from Zim took part in a radio talk-show. There were also articles in Range newspapers pertaining to the local foster parenting program.

B. The Mrs. Jaycees from Virginia were involved in informing the public of the foster parenting program in North St. Louis County. To accomplish this goal they used posters, leaflets inserted into church bulletins and ten spot announcements on radio. Virginia's mayor signed a proclamation for NAFC Week and also signed the "Bill of Rights for Foster Children." Photos of this event were published in the Mesabi Daily Newspaper in Virginia.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Sponsor: The Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association.

During Action Week, Nebraska's Foster Child of the Year was selected by the Association. She is Tonya Sims, an honor roll high school senior. Tonya was presented with the $500 Benjamin Eaton Scholarship. She is now enrolled at St. Mary's College in Omaha.

Mayor Sorinsky presented the scholarship to Tonya, and she also was congratulated by Governor J. James Exon at the signing of the Action Week Proclamation. Afterwards, Tonya and her foster family were guests at a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion.

The Nebraska Foster Parent Association presented four Benjamin Eaton Scholarships to foster children for outstanding scholastic and citizenship records. Funds for these scholarships were raised by the Association through bake sales, garage sales, fund-raising drives, and from contributions from individuals.

Hastings and Grand Island

Action Week included "skate nite" for foster children, Good Neighbor Day at the Conestoga Mall where NAFC literature was displayed and disseminated. Foster parents Bob and Amy Fahnstock were invited to speak to the congregation of Calvary Lutheran Church; they were also interviewed on the radio show "Dimensions," and appeared on the Jean Ross T.V. show, discussing foster care questions phoned in by viewers.

The Central Nebraska Racing Association sponsored a special night for foster kids at the Mid Continent Raceways. The drivers gathered donations from the audience for the Scholarship Fund, thereby enabling four deserving foster children to further their education.

Lincoln

Sponsor: The Region V Resources Mobilization and Direct Services Units, State Welfare Department.

Foster parents from 17 Southeast Nebraska counties were honored at a recognition tea which marked the main event of Action Week in Lincoln. In the 17 counties represented there are 261 foster children living with 140 foster families. A "foster child of the year" was chosen to take part in the awards presented at the tea. Foster children were guests afterwards at a skating party held at the YMCA.

In conjunction with Action Week, an information booth on foster care services was set up at a local shopping mall for the benefit of the public.

Tonya Sims, Nebraska's 1975 State Foster Child

Tonya Sims (center), with Sharee and Bob Kelly, who were presidents of the Omaha Area Foster and Adoptive Parent Association in May of 1975.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sponsor: New Hampshire Action for Foster Child. . .mittee

Action Week was publicized through the efforts of five publicity chairmen around the state in the various public media. By this means, communities were alerted to the fact that a State Committee had been formed, and they were invited to join by establishing local units.

Action Week is a time to raise the people's consciousness about foster children. In New Hampshire, numerous proclamations, newspaper and magazine articles, and radio announcements kept the issue of foster care in the public eye. In establishing Action Week for New Hampshire, Governor Thomson emphasized the importance of working to help foster children when he stated, "sharing is truly the art of giving."

The proclamation was signed at a State House ceremony attended by Maurice and Joan Cleveland and their natural sons, Michael and Mark, a foster family from Concord. The Clevelands presented the Governor with a framed Action Week poster bearing the motto of Action Week -- "You don't have to be a foster parent to help a foster child."

A similar scene took place in Manchester, where the 1974 foster parents of the year, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Sullivan joined Sister Florence Therrien, a member of the Action Committee and former foster child, to present Mayor Stanton with the Action Week poster and a copy of the Bill of Rights for Foster Children. The Manchester Union Leader provided excellent coverage of the meeting with Mayor Stanton, as well as that with Governor Thomson.

In Keene, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norton spear-headed an excellent program highlighted by a very informative story in the Keene Sentinel and a very impressive three-part series on a local radio station. The Mayor of Keene also joined Mayor Stanton and Governor Thomson in officially recognizing Action Week.

"The success of Action Week '75 then, and of action weeks in the future, lies with us, the members of the N.H. Action for Foster Children Committee. We will very shortly be meeting to plan our strategies; I know that we will all put our best effort into helping these children."

NEW JERSEY

Trenton

Sponsor: New Jersey Department of Resource Development

"Why not Join the Family" was the slogan for an eight-month foster home recruitment campaign launched by New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne during Action Week, with a kick off parade through downtown Trenton. Organized and conducted by the New Jersey Bureau of Research Development, the focus during each of the six months from June through November was on finding homes for children with specific needs: in June, homes for teenagers; July, for Hispanic-American children; August, emergency short-term foster homes; September, homes for mentally retarded children; October, for emotionally disturbed children; and November, for physically handicapped children.

Jersey City (Hudson County)

Sponsors: Hudson County Foster Parent Association
The Regional Bureau of Resource and Development,
Division of Youth and Family Service

Emphasis was placed on reaching the Spanish speaking public during Action Week through television and radio programs and announcements.

A table of information on foster care was set up at a shopping mall. A similar operation was set up at the bus and train terminals.

The Chosen Board of Freeholders signed an Action Week resolution which was followed by a Proclamation from the Mayor of Jersey City.

A delegation traveled to Trenton to take part in the Governor's Parade and Proclamation signing.

TRENTON, N.J. CELEBRATES NAFC WEEK

A parade, a proclamation, and a series of special events highlighted National Action for Foster Children Week in Trenton, N.J. State coordinator for the Week's activities was Hattie Talley, shown displaying the New Jersey NAFC Proclamation. The New Jersey observance was but one of scores of similar events held around the country.

NORTH DAKOTA

Sponsor: Social Services Board of North Dakota
Bismark, North Dakota

Action Week was observed throughout the State by Proclamation from the Governor. The Proclamation was signed at a ceremony in which the President of the North Dakota Foster Parent Association and his wife participated. A photograph of the signing together with a letter of information on the goals and purposes of good foster care practice was sent to all public and private agencies in North Dakota and to juvenile court judges.

Public media coverage included a press release on the Proclamation which was sent to all daily and weekly newspapers and distribution of NAFC posters and brochures was also conducted.

The Social Services Board will seek ratification of the Bill of Rights for Foster Children by the Legislature in its next session.

OHIO

Cincinnati (Hamilton County)

Sponsors: Catholic Charities
Hamilton County Welfare Department
Foster Parent Association of Greater Cincinnati
Board of Mental Retardation

Four agencies collaborated in a program to bring about greater public awareness of foster care and, at the same time, to recruit new foster parents.

On three days during Action Week, sponsors set up booths on a busy downtown promenade (Fountain Square). Banners, flyers, pens, buttons, and bumper stickers were distributed to the public. Entertainment was provided by a high school band, and the Mayor of Cincinnati, with other public officials, appeared and issued an Action Week Proclamation. A specially prepared brochure defining foster care regulations and available programs was made available to interested persons. An advertisement placed in the Mid-Day Report reached about 8,000 readers in downtown restaurants. This ad was printed for five weeks -- four weeks free of charge as a contribution by the printing company.

Daily newspapers carried articles about community foster care. Local radio and television stations covered the Fountain Square event. A short documentary on the emergency receiving shelter was presented on T.V. There was also a 30-minute talk show, and Educational T.V. produced a half-hour show.

Displays in downtown shop windows were arranged with the cooperation of local merchants.

The Altrusa Club of Cincinnati donated 3,000 pens bearing the Action Week logo.

The Action Week activities closed with a recognition banquet for Foster Parents.

Warren (Trumbull County)

Sponsor: Trumbull County Children's Service Board

A congratulatory banquet for nine foster children graduating from high school was one of the outstanding events of Action Week. Attending were foster families of the graduates and social service agency staff. The Graduation Fund Raising Drive, aimed at local service organizations, provided the local Foster Parent Association with enough money for a $50.00 savings bond for each graduate. This drive will be a feature of future Action Weeks. The banquet was covered by major newspapers. Publicity on Action Week on television, radio and newspapers began in early May.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City

Sponsors: Oklahoma County Foster Parents Association, and
Sunbeam Foster Parents Association

The National Action Week activities were coordinated through the Oklahoma County Foster Parents and Sunbeam Foster Parents Association. The primary goal in this area was to present before the public the quality of care available to fill a definite need. This report describes the specific part Sunbeam Family Services played in the Week.

Of course, the week began for and with the kids. The Oklahoma City Zoo was besieged by the agencies' children with foster parents in tow. Popcorn and soda pop provided for the children was consumed by all as evidenced by butter-smeared faces and pop-stained shirts of foster parents, foster children, and agency personnel alike. When the siege was lifted, a sigh was heard from the animals and smiles of pleasure shone through lines of fatigue as we walked through the exit gates.

Agencies from Tulsa and Oklahoma counties honored their most active foster parents by having the Governor's wife present plaques to them.

A local radio station devoted four hours of prime time to air questions and answers between the general public and foster parents via telephone, MC'd by a favorite disk jockey. There was very live participation in this feature and the DJ had little time to fill with music. Many facets of fostering were delved into. The agencies and associations are quite pleased to have a better public image as a result of this effort.

The week was closed in this area by a local TV program "What's Happening." Sunbeam Home and Family Services personnel were featured by an interview with a husband and wife foster parent team and their caseworker. All the standard questions of "How long" and "How come" were explored, closing with "How can we help" information to the general viewer.

All in all, Central Oklahoma had an active and productive week in mid-May this year. Foster parents and agencies work hard the year round to assist when and where we can. We are happy to stand in the national limelight once in a while to help our friends and neighbors understand some of the troubles we try to alleviate.

A memorable part of National Action for Foster Children Week was the reception held May 19, 1975, in the State Capitol Building. The Governor's wife, Mrs. David Boren, presented plaques from Sunbeam Family Services, the Oklahoma County Foster Parent Association, and Tulsa County Foster Parent Association to the foster parents who have given long and special service in the care of foster children. Sunbeam Family Services honored Meredith and Charles Fischer who have been foster parents for this agency for 14 years and have given care to 33 children.

PENNSYLVANIA

Williamsport

Sponsor: Lycoming County Foster Parent Association

The Commissioner of Lycoming County proclaimed Action Week, and the observance was publicized in a special radio program in which the Director of Children's Services and three foster mothers were interviewed. There were two important newspaper articles during the week explaining all aspects of foster care.

The Foster Parent Association participated in the YMCA Annual Health Fair, with a booth presenting the foster care story.

The FPA is represented on the Child Abuse Council, which is establishing a network of parent/partners to be contacted during times of stress. Emergency care facilities are also being studied by the Council in determining the criteria for homes caring for children under 12 years of age.

PUERTO RICO

Sponsor: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Santurce, P.R.
Department of Social Services

The Honorable Ramon Garcia Santiago, Secretary of the Department of Social Services, issued a State Proclamation to bring Action Week to the attention of the community. Other proclamations were issued by municipalities throughout the Island.

Special events during the week were:

Picnics with the participation of foster parents and children, educational conferences to foster parents in such matters as adolescence, and the care of foster children, recreational and artistic programs for foster parents and children, meetings with representatives of the community to give information in regard to the foster care service and develop their concern in behalf of the foster children, radio and television spots for promoting the goals and purposes of the Action Week, a meeting with foster parents to give them recognition for the services given, share their problems, and give group orientation.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Sponsor: South Carolina Department of Social Services, P. O. Box 1520, Columbia, South Carolina 29202.

Action Week Goals and Activities

Action Week goals in South Carolina included statewide media coverage of the event and the establishment of the first Action Committee for Foster Children in South Carolina.

Governor James B. Edwards proclaimed Action Week for Foster Children in South Carolina at ceremonies in Columbia which were attended by foster parents and staff members of the Department of Social Services. A concurrent resolution was passed by the State Legislature commending foster parents throughout the state for their unselfish commitment to children who need the care and concern of a foster family.

The prospective South Carolina Action Committee for Foster Children convened in Columbia on May 16th. Mrs. Lillie E. Herndon, Chairperson of the National Action Committee, was the featured speaker. The group of interested citizens, foster parents, and professional child care workers were provided with a specially packaged collection of NAFC literature. They resolved to officially form an Action Committee in South Carolina and arranged for further immediate activities to include preparation of a constitution, membership recruitment, and selection of appropriate projects. Mrs. Louise Gantt of Columbia, South Carolina, was designated interim chairman of the Committee.

All forms of media coverage were utilized to publicize the needs of foster children and to recruit potential foster parents. Radio and television spot announcements and feature stories on foster care appeared across the state. Recreational and social activities including picnics for foster children and recognition banquets for foster parents were held by local foster parent associations and Department of Social Services staffs.

TENNESSEE

Sponsor: Department of Public Welfare

Fifty-three of Tennessee's 95 counties reported Action Week observances. These included picnics, dinners, teas and receptions, almost all receiving press coverage.

In most counties, the sponsors were the Citizen's Advisory Committee in cooperation with local agency staff.

Governor Ray Blanton signed the Action Week Proclamation on May 19. Prior to Action Week, the Tennessee General Assembly adopted the Senate Joint Resolution on the Bill of Rights for Foster Children. The proposal for this Resolution was submitted by the Tennessee Human Services Council which is comprised of representatives from private social agencies.

Several mayors and county judges in Tennessee issued proclamations. In one county (Dickson) local funds were authorized to purchase silver dishes for foster mothers and Bicentennial key rings for foster fathers. These were presented at an appreciation tea.

Throughout the State, Action Week was well covered by the press, and through the use of taped radio spot announcements. Davidson and Knox County Foster Parent Associations set up displays in shopping areas and distributed information.

Knoxville

Sponsors: Knox County Foster Parent Association and
The Tennessee Department of Public Welfare

Action Week opened with a Proclamation by Mayor Kyle Testerman.

A display of literature and fact sheets (with foster parents on hand to explain) was set up at the Country Market on the Market Mall.

At the meeting of the Dairy Council, the Knox County Foster Parent Association paid tribute to foster mothers. Plants were presented to foster parents and to case workers at the Child and Family Services. A foster parent orientation class held at the Church of the Saviour was open to all interested members of the public.

The Tennessee Telephone Company enclosed an item about NAFC in its "Bell Notes" sent to subscribers.

TEXAS

Forty-seven Texas counties were active in Action Week programs. Prior to Action Week, the Information Services Bureau of the State Department of Welfare developed and disseminated materials for a public information campaign to be carried on throughout the State to increase public awareness and understanding of the needs of foster children and to recruit foster and adoptive families.

In rural, sparsely populated areas, this campaign was largely through television and radio, and recruitment mainly by person to person contact. In urban areas, (Houston, Austin, Fort Worth, El Paso, San Antonio, Beaumont), many campaigns were bi-lingual in order to reach the Spanish speaking community.

El Paso conducted an extensive recruitment effort, designed with the help of a leading public relations firm which donated its services. With the help of the Juvenile Court, the public was advised of a crucial need for better emergency placement services for children who are now -- even if very young -- consigned to detention facilities because there is nowhere else to put them.

In Austin, a volunteer corporation, "Parent Scouts," was formed to assist the social agency in recruiting foster homes.

In many counties, foster parent associations were formed. Many foster parents took part in training programs to up-grade their knowledge and fostering skills. The plight of the abused and neglected child was studied, and training courses conducted to develop greater sensitivity to problems of abused children. In Clarkesville, the Protective Services Staff attended a three day seminar under the leadership of a leading authority on child abuse.

In Bexar County (San Antonio), the foster parent association campaigned for public support of better funding for foster care services. This county is faced with a need for more foster homes but reimbursement rates are very low.

In the Panhandle, a pilot emergency receiving home program has been licensed and is proving to be invaluable.

In Hopkins County, a child advocacy organization has been formed, staffed entirely with community volunteers. The organization now has about 30 members who are involved in many kinds of services for foster children: temporary emergency home services, tutoring, transportation, public awareness, emergency funding for medical payments, big brother and big sister programs, play therapy for children with special needs, and the establishment of a clothes closet for foster children. Twice a month, a local newspaper carries a column of children's needs and how volunteers can help.

Statewide, a child abuse hot line has been developed, and more child welfare boards are being set up to provide protection and care and to meet the everyday necessities of children in need.

With respect to legislation, the 64th Texas Legislature passed several bills relating to foster children; the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children; a similar bill which requires approval by the Commissioner of Public Welfare before a child is placed from a non-compact state into Texas; a new Child Care Licensing Act, which applies to all child care facilities, public and private; an Adoption Subsidy Act which amends the previous Act and provides for the use of State rather than County funds for the adoptive placement of "hard-to-place" children under certain circumstances.

NAFC was the topic of a seminar presented at the Texas State Foster Parents Conference held in Dallas in October 1975. It is hoped that a statewide NAFC program and a year-round Action Committee will result.

VIRGINIA

Norfolk

Sponsor: Norfolk Division of Social Services

Norfolk's Mayor, Irvine B. Hill, issued an Action Week Proclamation.

The Norfolk Foster Care Program and the urgent need for foster parents were featured on three television programs during the evening's news.

The Norfolk Action for Foster Children Committee was organized during Action Week. Mrs. Eli Chovitz, Norfolk Human Resources Commission, was appointed Chairperson.

Alexandria

Sponsor: Alexandria Department of Social Services

Mayor Charles Blatly read his Action Week Proclamation at the City Council meeting.

The social event of the week was a picnic for foster children at Pohick Bay National Park. Publicity for Action Week was achieved through spot announcements on a local television channel, and a special article on foster care written by a foster father which appeared in an Alexandria newspaper.

Governor Godwin and Virginia Action Week Sponsors

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution
in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia,
there is hereby officially recognized:
NATIONAL ACTION FOR
FOSTER CHILDREN WEEK

The week of May 18 through 24 has been declared NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WEEK.

In Virginia a number of social agencies and foster parents attempt to provide children in need with both temporary and long-term environments which will help them to grow to be responsible citizens.

There still exists a valid need for foster parents who can and will accept children.

In recognition of this need and the excellent work by the agencies themselves, I call the purposes of this week to the attention of the people of Virginia.

MILLS E. GODWIN, JR.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY PROJECTS

CONCERN FOR CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT (CIP)

National Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Some children are forgotten in foster care homes or institutional care. It is possible for delinquent, dependent and neglected children to remain for many years in court ordered placements without a judicial review of their status. These children may be shuttled through a succession of foster homes or institutions, never knowing a permanent, secure family life.

To lessen the possibility of "forgotten children," the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges, is sponsoring a project to set up a review system for every child's case to see what the situation is for each individual child and to make a decision about what needs to be done for that child. The project is being demonstrated nationwide with a grant from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. Thirteen courts of varying sizes and different geographical locations are part of the project thus far.

> Santa Barbara, California; Wausau, Wisconsin; Louisville, Kentucky; Providence, Rhode Island; Salt Lake City, Utah; Portland, Oregon; Lincoln, Nebraska; El Paso, Texas; Columbia, South Carolina; Ravenna, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; Greenville, Mississippi; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Consultant trainees hold two-day training sessions in the various court districts. They first work with the judge and a selected local CIP coordinator, seeing how the court system works and explaining the project in detail.

The on-site CIP project coordinator trains community volunteers to review actual case records of children in placement in that area. The volunteers take a confidentiality oath to protect the children and families involved. Approximately 165 volunteers were involved as of the end of 1975. The information gathered will eventually provide an overall view of children in care but most importantly, the project hopes to assure at least a mandatory annual review of children in

placement and to work toward improved permanent planning in that child's best interest.

In some districts, CIP workers have found that foster homes are almost non-existent. Children removed from parental care are placed in orphanages run by churches or religious groups outside the court or social service agency's oversight, so there is no governmental agency aware of, or responsible for the children, and often no planning being done for them.

Workers "comb" files of juveniles to spot cases of children "lost" in the system. In one district, Providence, Rhode Island, the Junior League has trained 20 volunteers who will carefully review the case files of some 2,200 children who have been placed by the Rhode Island Family Court or the State Child Welfare Services. Their project will take about a year and a half or two years. Even more important than the updating of records will be the subsequent creation of new safeguards for handling the state's caseload, lessening the risk of human error and assuring that when a child is placed, he or she will not be forgotten.

The Project's Coordinator is Virginia Cain, National Council of Juvenile Court Judges,P.O. Box 8000, Reno, Nevada, 89507.

FOSTER PARENTS FOR TEENAGERS--RECRUITMENT AND EDUCATION PROJECT

The Junior League of Lincoln
Project Director
Jean Ledoux
2202 South 11th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

The Junior League of Lincoln, Nebraska was awarded an LEAA grant in 1974 to fund a project whose immediate and prime objective is to provide quality foster homes for Lincoln-Lancaster County teenagers. In order to achieve this objective, three goals were determined: (1) the creation of community awareness and acceptance of community-based placements for juveniles as alternatives to institutionalization; (2) reinforcement of the Foster Care-child care unit through the use of volunteers; and (3) preparation of foster parents for this task through a comprehensive educational program.

The juvenile court, the county welfare foster care unit and the youth service system were involved with the Junior League in developing the project. The League's involvement extended to a pledge of funding for the salary of a full-time foster home recruiter (the project director). Mrs. Jean Ledoux, selected for this position, has a masters degree in Vocational Rehabilitation with an emphasis on social rehabilitation. She is extremely effective in working with parents, volunteers and troubled adolescents.

With respect to the project's first goal, a number of activities were carried out during the first year (period up to March 1975). An advisory board was formed, comprised of 14 local agencies and groups having responsibility or concern for youth (examples: the Lincoln Police Department, the Board of Commissioners, the Juvenile Court, and voluntary youth-serving agencies).

These agencies in turn contacted 32 local social, business and service organizations, addressing them on the need for foster homes for juvenile offenders. Public service opportunities on the media were used, and a "telephone blitz" was conducted one evening as a means of reaching as many members of the community as possible to give them basic information on the project and gain their support.

With respect to foster homes recruited during that same period, altogether 21 were approved. Twenty-four placements were made--some were referrals from the Juvenile Court, three from Protective Services, and there was one voluntary placement. All youths were between 13 and 18 years of age. Thirteen were girls, 11 boys.

The third goal involved comprehensive education for the foster parents. During the period reported on, two programs were completed accommodating 24 new foster couples and six single parents. Sessions covered communications techniques, family problem solving, the rights and responsibilities of foster parents, adolescent values, behavior management, building self esteem, decision making, and the teen scene (by a Youth Panel). As an outcome, two support groups were formed, consisting of foster parents and coordinators from the University of Nebraska Educational Psychology Department, who meet in one another's houses every other week to discuss aspects and problems of fostering and to share experiences. During the current year, the project will strive to maintain the homes recruited, approved and educated and will recruit and maintain an average of two new homes a month. In addition four homes for emergency service (short term placement) will be established.

A process for "matching" each youth with a prospective foster home placement will be developed in order to assure the most satisfactory experience for each youth.

The project will continue to improve the already established educational program for foster parents, with the financial and professional support of the Foster Case Unit of Lancaster County so as to accommodate veteran foster parents as well as new ones. Coordinating the program with County Welfare will pave the way for the County's take-over in 1977 when the grant expires.

Expanded support from the community at large to the community-based approach to correction will be achieved through citizen involvement in treatment programs and through continued public awareness efforts.

CITIZEN ADVOCACY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Six private organizations, joining together in a coalition effort to obtain permanent homes for foster children, have been responsible for the passage of legislation setting up three major child welfare plans in South Carolina: (1) broader involuntary termination of parental rights; (2) a state-wide foster care review board system; and (3) subsidized adoption.

The citizens' project was called "A Child's Right to Parents" and was based on the view of Goldstein, Freud and Solnit "Only a child who has at least one person whom he can love, and who also feels loved, valued and wanted by that person, can develop a healthy self-esteem. Only then can he become confident of his own chances of achievement in life and convinced of his own human value."*

The six participating organizations were the American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association, and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Assisting with professional direction were psychiatrists, psychologists and professors of law and social work, who participated as private citizens.

Although a law had been passed in 1962 allowing parental rights to be terminated involuntarily if the parent had abandoned a child for a year, it was known that the law was seldom used, and it was suspected that many, many abandoned children were "lost in the labyrinthine maze of bureaucratic channels...," never to find a permanent home. Four research studies confirmed and documented this fact, revealing that vast numbers of children were accumulating in foster homes and institutions either because caseworkers

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* "Beyond the Best Interests of the Child," New York Free Press, 1973.

were unaware of the involuntary termination of parental rights statute or were unfamiliar with the legal procedures to be taken. Children were retained in foster care throughout childhood.

The collected findings of these investigative studies were submitted to the Legislative Study Committee. The result was the establishment, by law, of a statewide foster care review board in 1974, mandated to (1) review every six months the cases of children in foster care for more than six months, to determine what steps were being taken to find permanent homes for them; (2) to encourage and facilitate the return of all such children to their natural parents if this were in the best interests of the child; (3) to encourage placing agencies to place children with persons both suitable and eligible to be adopting parents; (4) to advise foster parents of their right to petition the court for termination of parental rights and of their right to apply to adopt a child in their care for more than six months; (5) to direct agencies to arrange for permanent foster care for children for whom adoption was not possible; and (6) to report to the Department of Social Services deficiencies in agency efforts.

In the interests of "hard to place" children, legally free but with little prospect of adoption, the coalition pushes for passage of subsidized adoption laws. A limited subsidy was passed--to provide for the continuation of medical payments for physically handicapped children who had received such payment when in foster care.

Realizing the importance of assuring implementation of these major measures, the Governor, in 1975, established the Office of Child Advocacy. Funding of this office is shared by the State and a private foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation of New York.

CALIFORNIA CHILD CARE COORDINATING COUNCIL

3101 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, California

Supporters of children's services in California have joined in a coalition to influence change and improvement in both funding and practices within the State. In the coalition are:

California Council on Children and Youth
California Children's Lobby
California Association of Children's Residential Centers
California State Foster Parent Association
California Human Service Organization, Inc.
California Association of Maternal and Child Health

The "5-C" was incorporated in December 1974 to establish a statewide coordinate to form a communications network with state, local and federal agencies, or active concern for children, to provide for coordination and expansion of child care delivery systems; to insure quality and quantity of service, and to provide technical assistance to individuals, groups and organizations. There is a 15-member Board of Directors representing geographical areas within the state.

The coalition's first Conference was held on December 1-3, 1975 in San Francisco. The program was outlined in workshops covering child abuse, foster care, comprehensive emergency service, Interstate Compact for Placement of Children, Title XX, training for Foster Parents, and Child Care Services.

"AID TO FOSTER CHILDREN" PROJECT

The Nebraska Chapter of Mrs. Jaycee has been sponsoring, since 1962, as a state philanthropy a project entitled "Aid to Foster Children". Each Mrs. Jaycee Chapter throughout the state contributes funds for local foster children who have special needs which are not financially covered by agency funds or other available sources. The project has provided foster children with such extras as class rings, graduation pictures, piano lessons and summer camperships.

During the organization's state meeting in October, 1975, information on the National Action for Foster Children program was made available and the Mrs. Jaycee's Vice President hopes to interest members and chapters in becoming personally involved with foster children as advocates supporting broader aspects of the foster care system.

THE SATELLITE FAMILY PROGRAM

Hope Center for Youth
Houston, Texas

The Hope Center Satellite Family Program is a community-based program of therapeutic foster family care for moderately emotionally disturbed children ages 8 to 14. Its goal is to enable them to function as family members and to return to their own families as soon as possible.

The treatment philosophy which makes this possible is based on according dignity to children, and allowing them to exercise responsibility, to make mistakes, and to learn from their mistakes. At the same time, they are helped to achieve appropriate skills, behavior and attitudes necessary in living within their family environment.

Satellite families are recruited from the community and trained in special parenting skills during an eight week course carried out once a week at two-hour evening sessions. Families are licensed in accordance with the County's standards and those additional requirements set by the Center.

Children placed with satellite families are referred either by the County Department of Public Welfare, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Mental Health Authority, Texas Youth Council, or by schools, doctors, parents, and sometimes by the children themselves. Each child is given a thorough physical and dental examination with a follow-up treatment plan. The child's special needs are diagnosed through data and interviews with doctors, teachers, psychiatrists, and parents. Frequent evaluation is continued during the period of placement to evaluate the child's progress and to determine what support and services are to be used in his particular treatment program.

In placement, the children are treated as family members, and are enrolled in community schools. The Center provides support and service to children, satellite families and natural parents through

community agencies or private contractual arrangements.

If the child's family and legal situation is such that his natural parent can be involved in the program, and there is an opportunity for him to return home, counseling is made available to the natural parents through home visits and interviews scheduled once a month -- more frequently near the end of placement.

When the child returns home, the Satellite Family Program provides after care (counseling, family interviews) as frequently as may be necessary for a period up to six months.

COUNTY KIN FOR FOSTER KIDS

Box 420
Sterling, Illinois 61081

This organization began at a community meeting held in Sterling on June 10, 1975. Members of 30 community oriented service groups and area foster parents were invited by personal letter and through the news media. The topic of this meeting was "Foster Children: What Can We Do To Help." A taped interview with Beatrice L. Garrett, Foster Family Specialist, U.S. Children's Bureau, was played explaining the purpose of National Action for Foster Children. Discussion followed the presentation and plans were formulated to involve Whiteside County foster children and their foster families in various activities.

Objectives and Goals: The prime initial objective as set forth at this first meeting was "to provide social activities at which foster children and their families can get to know others in similar situations."

Initial Planned Activity: The initial activity decided on by the committee was a bus trip to a Chicago baseball game. Financial backing was sought by area Rotary Clubs (Sterling, Rock Falls, Erie, Morrison, Illinois) a bus was donated by a local bus company. Coordination of contacting all county foster children and parents was handled by the Court Services Counselor for Whiteside County. Three agencies were involved in notifying the foster families: (1) Whiteside County Probation Services; (2) Illinois State Department of Children and Family Services; (3) Catholic Social Services

On August 19, 1975, twenty-five county foster children and five chaperons (a mixture of agency representatives and county foster parents) attended a Chicago Cubs/Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The children were given money for food and souvenirs while at the park so there was no cost to any child attending.

Future Activities: Plans are underway for future activities such as a night of bowling, roller skating and a foster family picnic.

The long term goal is to formulate a public relations effort and program for 1976 Action Week to increase public awareness of foster children.

Related Activities: In October 1975, a Foster Training Session entitled "Principles of Foster Care" was offered at Sauk Valley College, Dixon, Illinois. This class's formation was a combined effort of Lee County Youth Service Bureau, Dixon, Illinois, Whiteside County Probation Services, Catholic Social Services, Department of Children and Family Services and Sauk Valley College. The following topics were introduced in this six week class held one night per week: legal aspects, separation trauma, child management, communications, empathy, agencies, values, adolescent behavior needs. Several foster parent couples from all of the above agencies signed up for the class.

CITIZENS ACTION TO HELP YOUTH, INC.

2401 South Third Avenue
Arcadia, California 91006

WHO THEY ARE Citizens Action to Help Youth, Inc., incorporated in 1974 under the laws of California, is a non-profit organization composed entirely of volunteers who share a deep concern for needy and homeless children. Although the corporation consists of four regional associations operating throughout Los Angeles County, the formation given herein relates specifically to our San Gabriel Valley Association.

WHAT THEY DO Befriend and educate needy and homeless children, and encourage and strengthen foster parents in their difficult role. This is done in various ways, some of which are:

Scholarship Program: Currently eleven San Gabriel Valley foster children are in academic or vocational training programs at the following colleges with the help of our scholarships: Whittier Citrus, Mt. San Antonio, Rio Hondo, Pasadena City, University of Arizona, and Brigham Young University. In addition to money for books and tuition, funds may also be provided for special needs such as a typewriter, calculator, art supplies, etc. Each scholarship recipient is paired with a committee member who keeps in close touch with the student's situation and progress.

Christmas Sugar Plum Tree: This project is generously supported by shoppers at Santa Anita Fashion Park who wish to remember unfortunate children at Christmas. The Committee collects, wraps, and distributes the presents. In 1974 over 1,500 such gifts were distributed throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Organizations which helped in the SUGAR PLUM PROJECT:

Arcadia Brownie Troops
Arcadia Girl Scout Troops
Monrovia Junior Women's Club
R.S.V.P. - Alhambra

Arcadia High School Duchesses Service Club
Arcadia Junior Women's Club
California House for Senior Citizens of Pasadena
Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Women
Covina Junior Women's Club
Eta Nu
R.S.V.P. - Pasadena
San Gabriel Women's Club
San Marino High School
Delphians Club
Santa Anita Rangers 4-H Club
Shakespeare Club Juniors
Sierra Madre Civic Club
Temple City Junior Women's Club

Layette Project: New items are made, and used clothing for infants is collected, washed, mended, and assembled into layettes for needy young mothers (mostly teenagers), some of whom reside at Florence Crittenton home. Layettes are also furnished for babies in foster homes and in other circumstances.

Special Friends: The Committee helps children in institutions and foster homes who need individual attention by visiting with them, providing medical transportation, tutoring, taking them on outings, etc.

Extra Treats: Members who have swimming pools give parties at their homes for small groups of children from institutions and foster homes. They also put on picnics, wienie roasts, barbecues, and the like in public parks, and provide free tickets for outings at Marineland, Disneyland, concerts, TV shows, ball games, and other events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bicentennial Year event was originally planned for March, but it has been changed to Saturday evening, May 1. Tentative plans call for an antique show and auction, with dinner, drinks, and entertainment. This will be the largest local activity the Committee has ever undertaken.

CHILDREN'S LEGISLATION WORKSHOP

Phoenix, Arizona

The Arizona Governor's State 4-C Committee organized an Action for Children's Legislation workshop on November 1, 1975, hosted by the University of Arizona and held on campus. The purpose was to promote the passage of specific legislation benefitting children and their families. At workshop sessions, key problems requiring legislative remedy were identified in child abuse and neglect, day care, adoption and foster care and plans for action were determined.

The key issue identified with respect to foster care was the need for a termination of parental rights statute as one of the remedies for the problem of children remaining in long-term foster care.

A bill has been written and will be introduced by the State legislature this year.

The Foster Care Workshop was also in agreement about the need to implement the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children, and the need to reimburse foster parents for the full cost of care for their foster children.

About 450 people attended the workshop. Among the 29 offices and agencies supporting this endeavor were: Arizona State University Colleges of Law, Education, Graduate School of Social Service, and Department of Home Economics, the Arizona Action for Foster Children Committee, Arizona PTA, League of Women Voters, National Association of Social Workers Chapter, United Way of Tucson, Family Services of Phoenix, AAUW, American Academy of Pediatrics-Arizona Chapter, Junior League of Phoenix, NOW, Arizona Council of Governments, Big Brothers of Flagstaff, Casa de los Ninos, Catholic Social Services, Jewish Family and Children's Service, and many others.

Guest speakers were the Dean of the College of Law, Arizona State University; Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security;

Executive Director, Arizona State Chamber of Commerce; and Director of the Massachusetts Office for Children. Workshop leaders and resource people came from all over the state.

Participants are being kept apprized of progress and children's legislation.

INDIAN FOSTER CARE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Commissioner Thompson Endorses Bill of Rights for Foster Children

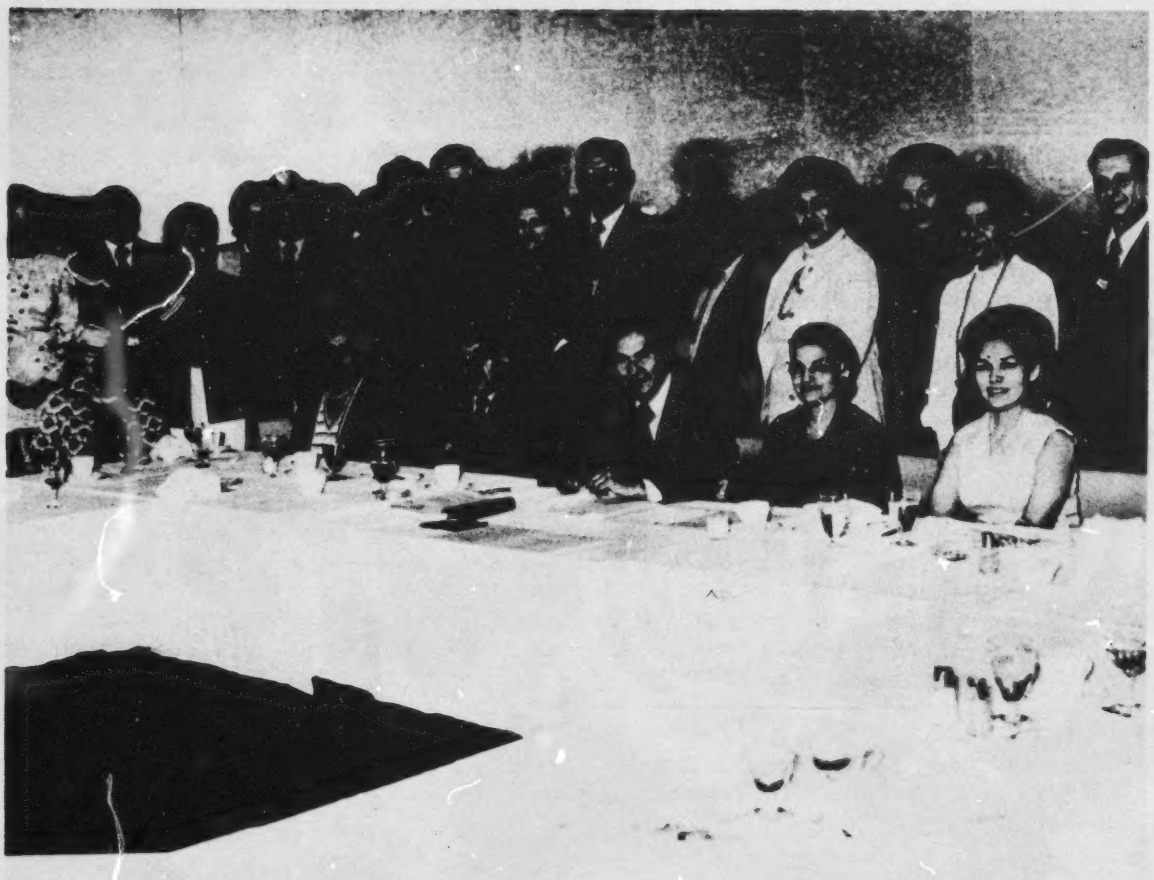
Commissioner of Indian Affairs Morris Thompson expressed his support of a national effort to protect the rights of foster children in a statement issued May 19.

In a ceremony in Washington, D.C., the Commissioner formally endorsed a Bill of Rights for Foster Children.

The week of May 18-24 had been designated as National Action for Foster Children Week by the committee which drafted the Bill of Rights in 1973. One of the objectives of the Week is to gain the support of Governors, Mayors and other governmental leaders.

Commissioner Thompson, in his endorsement, said: "I note with pride that a signatory to the original document was Mrs. Marie Cox of the Comanche Tribe, and in the years since, this document has been endorsed by many Indian tribes and organizations. I look forward to the day when the principles set forth in this Bill of Rights are a reality for Indian children, and for all children who will be reared by persons other than their own parents and family."

The National Action for Foster Children Committee, established in 1972 by HEW, is made up of representatives of various national organizations. Mrs. Cox, for example, represents the North American Indian Women's Association.



ENDORSEMENT OF BILL OF RIGHTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN BY
COMMISSIONER THOMPSON
INTERNATIONAL CLUB, WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 19, 1975

NAVAJO RESERVATION, CHENLE, ARIZONA

Foster parents on the Navajo Reservation, Chenle, Arizona, were honored on May 9 at a recognition dinner and awards presentation. Fifteen certificates were presented. It is planned to make this an annual event. Currently, ten foster homes are active in the Chenle community, one of which is a group home for up to five teenagers. All are Navajo families, although in the past Anglo families have also received aid; any persons are welcome if they have the desire and capability to provide care for children.

The foster care program administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Social Services, assists children in need of temporary placement for medical reasons, parental neglect or abandonment, or when parents request placement for a variety of social reasons. The primary goal of the social services program is to strengthen family unity.

Toward this end, efforts are first made to keep the children with their parents or with relatives when emergencies arise. If this is not possible, foster care is the next best alternative. There is an increasing demand for Navajo families willing to serve as foster parents, particularly for older or handicapped children.

THE URBAN INDIAN CHILD RESOURCE CENTER

390 Euclid Avenue
Oakland, California

A three year demonstration project, begun in June 1975, is being funded by the Children's Bureau, OCD/HEW, to develop a family service approach to meet the protection needs of American Indian children living in the San Francisco Bay area.

The Center has a staff of four Family Representatives (Caseworkers); a supervisor/trainer, two homemakers, and administrative staff to carry out a training program for the staff in child welfare services, parenting, and child development consonant with the American Indian culture.

A family support network, including receiving homes and Indian foster homes will be developed, with parent education classes with an emphasis on redefining and strengthening existing cultural child rearing practices.

A Community Center is underway for technical assistance in establishing programs for children and for the dissemination of information on child development as it relates to Indian families.

The project is under the direction of the Indian Nurses of California, Inc., a non-profit organization whose goal is to assist Indians to find resources and solutions to persistent and multiple social and health problems. There are approximately 75 Indian nurses from many tribes, each with its own culture and needs, but who are united by a common goal and a strong desire to help the Indians living in California.

It is planned that the Urban Indian Child Resource Center will develop an Indian Community Board, to which the responsiblities now carried by the Indian nurses will be transferred.

FOSTER PARENT EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S BUREAU DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Development of a Basic Curriculum for Foster Parents

This is a three year project (1) to determine the foster parents' educational needs as conceived by foster parents, foster children and agency personnel; (2) to review and evaluate existing programs; and (3) to develop, test and evaluate a flexible foster parent curriculum with innovative teaching techniques and discussion aids. The project is under the direction of Helen Stone, Child Welfare League of America, Inc., 67 Irving Place, New York, New York 10003.

Curriculum Development for Paraprofessional Training for Foster Parents

The objectives of this project are to develop curriculum materials for the paraprofessional training of foster parents, to develop a model for their training on a state-wide and regional basis, and to develop procedures among leaders in social agencies, legislatures and educational institutions to assist in the establishment of foster parenting as a paraprofessional career. Resource guides for foster parents have been devised which suggest nurturing activities to assist children from infancy through adolescence to successfully accomplish developmental tasks.

The project is under the direction of C.E. Kennedy, Ed.D., Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.

Increasing the Effectiveness of Foster Care

The purpose of this project is to increase the effectiveness of foster care experience through the use of a service contract which defines the roles, responsibilities, and specific tasks of children, natural parents, foster parents, and workers. The primary goals of

the project are to protect the child from dysfunctional effects of separation from his own family, increase the chance for each child in foster care to achieve the most appropriate outcome, and reduce the length of time in foster care.

This project is under the direction of Edith Zober, Bureau of Family and Adult Services, Department of Social Services, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

ARIZONA FOSTER PARENT TRAINING CURRICULUM

The Arizona Action for Foster Children, Committee for Foster Parent Training, is justifiably proud of a training system developed to constitute the initial training of foster parents following the home study but prior to licensing and the placement of the first foster child in the home. The program is to be offered every two months to cover new homes.

The total time of training is six hours, which may constitute one all-day session on a Saturday, a 3-hour session one night a week for two weeks, and will be as flexible as possible to accommodate foster parents.

It is the hope of the Arizona Action Committee that the initial training program will be accepted and will be made mandatory for incoming foster parents. Department case workers directly involved in licensing, support and administration of foster care services are urged to attend.

It is planned to recruit both well qualified persons to teach on a volunteer basis including interested and knowledgeable professionals in the area of social work and child development, and experienced foster parents.

The training program is significantly directed toward increasing foster parents' sensitivity and understanding of the need to accord dignity to the foster child, through awareness of the child's background, the circumstances which have made separation from his family necessary; on empathy and compassion for the child's grief at separation, his loss of self image, his problems of adjustment, the child's attitude and misconceptions of his foster parent will be explored, the special needs of abused children or those with handicaps; his relations with his natural parents and the importance of maintaining those relationships.

Covered also will be the foster parent's communication with and relationship with natural parents, relatives, friends and neighbors.

The special role of the foster father will be discussed.

The training course will also focus on the foster parent's responsibility to the foster child with respect to medical, dental and psychological care, his clothing needs, educational resources, as well as the foster parent's responsibility to and relationship with the Agency--legal, medical, behavioral developmental record keeping, rules on confidentiality of information and records. An understanding of the social worker's role and responsibilities will be explored.

The special problem of relinquishing a child, when the time comes, will be explained.

Materials used in the course will include movies, slides, tapes, books, pamphlets, and articles published by the Child Welfare League of America, and by leading authorities on child development, foster care and parent effectiveness.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, RESOLUTIONS

AND

POLICY STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF DAVID T. EVANS, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND THE HOUSE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ON DECEMBER 1, 1975

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is David T. Evans. I am President of the National Foster Parent Association. I have come here today not only as a representative of an association representing the interests of one-third of a million foster children but as a concerned parent. As a natural parent, a foster parent, an adoptive parent, and a guardian, I have more than a passing interest in the needs and rights of children and the quality of care and national services for foster children.

The National Foster Parent Association is a unique organization that brings together foster parents, social workers, and other advocates for children. Founded in 1971, the NFPA is the first and only national organization of persons actively involved in providing foster family care to over 350,000 foster children.

The problem of foster care is a growing and complex problem that commands the attention of this Committee and the Congress. Ostensibly, it is one of the ills of our society that it often promises too much and delivers too little. Unfortunately, for the foster child, society promises less and delivers far too little. And at a time when many of our national leaders speak forcefully about the conservation of natural resources, it is perhaps our children--our first citizens--who are our most endangered species.

I have come here today to discuss with you what I think are the three major challenges of foster care--challenges that not only affect the children of foster care, but their natural and foster families--growing challenges that confront our society.

First, the number of children entering foster care is increasing. Over a third of a million young people are currently in foster care--either in foster family homes, group homes, or in institutions, and their number continues to increase. But these figures in no way

point to the magnitude of the real problem--the deterioration of the American family. What I want to suggest to you is that the number of vulnerable children--the number of potential foster children--is increasing rapidly. The number of single parent families throughout the United States is increasing in low income and minority families. In 1974, it was estimated that the proportion of black children living with one parent was 49.3 percent and one black child out of eleven was living with neither parent. The American Indian Movement estimates that an Indian child has 16 times greater chances of being separated from his natural family than a non-Indian child. It is these families that are particularly vulnerable to the socioeconomic pressures that bring children to foster care.

But this is not a new problem. The problems of parentless, homeless children are as old as America itself. Since 1636, less than thirty years after the founding of the Jamestown Colony, when Benjamin Eaton, a seven year old colonial American, became this nation's first foster child, significant numbers of America's children have needed foster family care. This need is likely to continue as long as we have parents and families who are unable to care for their children.

While I am fully aware and share many of your concerns about the costs of foster care, my concerns are child-oriented. I want to point out that no family or community in America is immune from the pressures that bring children into foster care. And, in a very real sense, every child within the community is a potential foster child. If we are to stem the tide of children entering foster care, we must prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their natural families by early and timely intervention and assistance to families faced with the crisis of separation. On the other hand, we must continue to increase the number of available foster homes to meet the needs of vulnerable children. It is estimated that for every four children now in foster care, another two could be if we had adequate resources and services.

Secondly, the number of children being "locked into" foster care is increasing. Society, by its neglect, has created a virtual army of "limbo children" whose chances of adoption or return to their natural families are practically nil. It is estimated that between 100,000 to 200,000 foster children--a staggering 50 to 80 percent--are adrift in foster care and will likely remian in foster care for long and indefinite periods.

In some respects, foster care has become a vast and hidden dumping ground for children separated from their natural families. In my opinion, there is no issue that so affects the child in the foster family as the question of the impermanence of foster care. We have often referred to foster children as "America's forgotten minority,"

claiming that they are voteless and voiceless. I for one, as President of the National Foster Parent Association and as a father of two long-term foster children, can tell you that they are not voiceless. They know the alternatives to foster care, and they want to know when and how they are going to get out. There can be no question that as advocates for children, we must always maintain a viable system of responsible foster care, while seeking responsible alternatives to free children from the uncertainties of long term foster care.

Third, the nature of children entering foster care in the last decade has changed dramatically. Traditionally, foster care meant the temporary care of children by substitute families who would likely be returned to their natural families. Today, greater numbers of children with physical and emotional problems and abused and neglected children are entering foster care. It is estimated that some 46 percent of the children in foster care are there because of parental neglect, abuse, and exploitation. In a real sense, foster parents have become the caretakers of America's abused and neglected children. In itself, the problem of child abuse and neglect is a complex and growing problem. By one estimate some 4,000 children each year are killed by their natural families. Some 50,000 are abused and thousands and thousands are neglected.

There is no problem that has so changed the nature of foster care and so affects the foster family than the problems of these children. By their very nature, children who have been abused and neglected, children who have physical and emotional problems, require special care and understanding. Often these children are and will be exhibiting a variety of problems which may be beyond the skills of persons without social knowledge. The NFPA has supported five national conferences providing education and special learning experiences for foster parents and social workers to increase their competence. In 1973, the NFPA adopted a position statement on the education and training of foster parents calling for mandatory preservice training programs, and while several states have developed these programs, only ten to fifteen percent of all foster parents are currently involved. Simply, if foster parents are to meet the special needs of children with problems, we must have adequate training and supportive services.

Finally, I must say something about the children of foster care--the children, who in Paul Mott's words, have been left "on the doorstep of foster care." They are no longer on our doorsteps, but in the homes and hearts of some 160,000 foster families throughout the United States, and they have been with us for some time. They are basically good children whom life has dealt a wrong turn. The needs and rights of these children are the primary concern of the National Foster Parent Association.

This Congress and the nation must place greater emphasis on the rights and needs of foster children. In the past, the needs of children have been cited frequently and often with eloquence. The 1930 White House Conference adopted the Children's Charter, which enumerated nineteen separate aims for every child regardless of race, color, or situation. In 1951, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted an inspiring document, the "Declaration of the Rights of the Child," proclaiming that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give. In December 1970, at the White House Conference on Children, "A Children's Charter for the Seventies" again called attention to the rights and unmet needs of children; and most recently, in 1973, a "Bill of Rights for Foster Children" was adopted in Congress Hall in Philadelphia citing the responsibility of society and parents for the well-being of foster children. The NFPA was a party to those historic words, and we want to be a party to their implementation.

John Kennedy once said that "while success has many fathers, failure is often an orphan." I have come here not to ask what you can do for the NFPA, but to ask what we can do together for foster children to insure that they have a happy and successful life.

Calendar No. H. 2976

By REPS. BASKIN, EVATT, TAYLOR, WILSON, KLAPMAN, FREDERICK, RUSSELL, HAM and PATTERSON

L. Printer's No. 207--S. Introduced May 8, 1975

THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICE

To whom was referred a Concurrent Resolution (H. 2976), to commend foster parent in South Carolina, etc., respectfully

REPORT:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend that the same do pass.

HORACE C. SMITH, for Committee.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To Commend Foster Parents in South Carolina for their Efforts in Providing Homes for Foster Children.

Whereas, foster parents throughout South Carolina are responsible for the day-to-day care of children who must live apart from their families; and

Whereas, these people, in carrying out their responsibilities, open their homes to provide an environment of love, support and encouragement for children in need of this attention; and

Whereas, foster parents, in giving of themselves, enable foster children to develop into mature and responsible adults; and

Whereas, the people of South Carolina, and especially the foster children, owe a substantial debt of gratitude to these wonderful people. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly hereby commend all foster parents in South Carolina for their unselfish commitment to children who need the care and concern of a foster family.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the South Carolina Action for Foster Children Committee.

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RESOLUTION

NO. 16-76

WHEREAS, the Comanche Tribal Business Committee of the Comanche Indian Tribe of Oklahoma being aware of the ratification of the Bill of Rights for Foster Children in Congress Hall, Philadelphia, April 28, 1973 and

WHEREAS, the Comanche Business Committee wishes to recognize this important document which establishes meaningful definition of the rights of foster children everywhere and

WHEREAS, the Comanche Business Committee is justly proud that a member of the Comanche Indian Tribe, Mrs. Marie Cox, was a signatory of this historical document and

WHEREAS, the Comanche Business Committee is particularly desirous that the principles set forth in this document become a reality for Indian children who are now being and will be reared by foster parents

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, the Comanche Tribal Business Committee hereby endorses the Bill of Rights for Foster Children thus joining the many Indian Tribes and organizations also signifying their endorsement of this document. (Copy of Bill of Rights attached).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Comanche Business Committee, held at Lawton, Oklahoma, on the 3rd day of January, 1976, by a vote of 5 for and 0 against.

Lee Mata
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Fred J. Oberly
SECRETARY

121

FROM THE OFFICE OF: Rep. Rex F. Kieffer, Jr.
State House
Columbus, Ohio 43215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 1975

COLUMBUS, O. -- State Representative Rex Kieffer, Jr., (R-Zanesville) pictured above on the right, presents to Muskingum County Probate and Juvenile Court Judge Holland M. Gary, an Ohio House of Representatives resolution which adopted a bill of rights for foster children.

Judge Gary is a National Council of Juvenile Court Judges member and was a strong supporter of the bill of rights.

"Foster children deserve decent care, love, education and help just as any other child," Kieffer said, "and this resolution clearly shows that the legislature supports proper foster children care."

The resolution has no penalties for violating its bill of rights, Kieffer noted, since laws have already been passed to meet specific foster children care needs. Kieffer called the resolution "a strong statement of principle."

Some of the specific rights contained in the resolution, Kieffer said, are:

* the right to have a child's foster parents receive adequate assistance for raising a foster child.

* the right to grow up with freedom and dignity, to an education and to citizenship training through interaction with foster parents and other adults.

* the right to live in a family providing needed love and care.

* the right to legal representation during court or administrative proceedings to assure a foster child's interests are safeguarded.

Ohio House Adopts 'Bill of Rights'

Columbus, O.–State Rep. Rex Kieffer, Jr., (R-Zanesville), presents to Muskingum County Probate and Juvenile Court Judge Holland M. Gary (left), an Ohio House of Representatives resolution which adopted the Bill of Rights for Foster Children.

Judge Gary represents the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges on the board of the National Action for Foster Children.

"Foster children deserve decent care, love, education, and help just as any other child," Kieffer said at the presentation, "and this resolution clearly shows that the legislature supports proper foster-children care."

The resolution has no penalties for violating its bill of rights, Kieffer noted, since laws have already been passed to meet specific foster-children-care needs. Kieffer called the resolution "a strong statement of principle."

Intro. 2/25/75

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.13

by

Henry

A RESOLUTION to adopt for Tennessee the National Bill of Rights for Foster Children.

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee has a long history of caring for, in facilities provided by the state and private agencies, those children who, for whatever reason, cannot live with their own parents; and

WHEREAS, the state is concerned for all children and recognizes its special responsibility for children who are placed in its custody for foster care services; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly has in recent years become more aware of the needs of foster children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the Bill of Rights for Foster Children developed by the National Action for Foster Children Committee and ratified in Congress Hall, Philadelphia, on April 28, 1973, be adopted by the Tennessee General Assembly as the Bill of Rights for Foster Children in Tennessee, which Bill of Rights is as follows:

8520*

RECENT STUDIES OF FOSTER CARE SERVICES

RECENT STUDIES OF STATE FOSTER CARE SERVICES PROGRAMS

Foster Care Evaluation Program
July 1974
Social Services Bureau
Arizona Department of Economic Security
1717 West Jefferson
P.O. Box 6123
Phoenix, Arizona 85005

Children Waiting
September 1972
Health and Welfare Agency
Department of Social Welfare
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Foster Care Survey
December 1973
Iowa Department of Social Services
Bureau of Family & Adult Services
Report #10005
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Foster Home Care in Massachusetts
1973
Massachusetts Governor's Commission on
Adoption and Foster Care
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

Vermont Committee Children Study
August 1973
Agency of Human Services
128 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05002

Foster Care Needs and Alternatives to Placement
- A Projection for 1975-1985
- A Plan for Action
New York State Board of Social Welfare
Research Department
Center for New York City Affairs
New School for Social Research
New York, New York 10011

Arizona's Children
Reports by the Governor's Advisory
Committee on Community Coordinated
Child Care
Arizona Department of Economic Security
Bureau of Community Support
P.O. Box 6123
Phoenix, Arizona 85005

Legislative Commission to Study the
Entire Field of Foster Child Placement
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House
Providence, Rhode Island

The Children of the State
The Preliminary Report of the Temporary
State Commission on Child Welfare
State Office Building
270 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Children's Services Study
Community Chest & Council
Social Planning Council
Cincinnati, Ohio

FOSTER CARE NEEDS AND ALTERNATIVES TO PLACEMENT

A Projection for 1975 - 1985

A Summary

In New York City, the number of children in foster care has practically doubled over the past 25 years. As of the end of 1974 there were 28,800 children in foster care programs and 905 at home awaiting placement. There were 1,400 children in psychiatric units of hospitals and 1,900 on probation--which makes a total of about 33,000 children. The city's system of child care is extraordinarily complex --80 voluntary agencies provide care for 85% of the children requiring foster care, while the New York City Special Services for Children purchases care and maintains responsibility for children placed with the voluntary agencies and at the same time, provides care directly for the remaining 15%. It is not surprising that the system has not kept pace with the changing needs of children, and that placements are based on spaces available rather than on appropriateness. Furthermore, it is believed that many children would not have to be in placement if alternative services were offered to the child and his family.

That the system does not relate to the individual child's needs has been a matter of public concern for some time. In an effort to determine just how many children require what kind of care, the New York State Board of Social Welfare commissioned a comprehensive study of foster care needs and alternatives, unmet and projected through 1985, which was undertaken by the Center for New York City Affairs, New School for Social Research. The study also included estimates of costs of meeting children's needs, potential sources of funding from the various levels of government, and from voluntary agencies.

All types of foster care were studied--foster family homes, group homes and residences, general institutions, residential treatment centers, secure detention, and psychiatric hospital care.

Appropriateness of current placements and whether or not children actually needed to be in placement were crucial elements of the study, and judgments were based on data obtained from reading a random sample of 1,250 case records of children in care or at home awaiting care. Placement needs of children on probation and in children's units of psychiatric hospitals were determined from information on questionnaires completed by probation officers and through interviews with hospital staff. Case readers based their appropriateness or judgment on criteria for placement and alternatives which had been established for this study--and an appropriateness determination was made on both the initial placement of the child and the current placement (as of October 1974). (With respect to the criteria for institutions, general institutions were considered never appropriate because they care for a most heterogeneous group of children--from the normal or near normal who should be in foster homes, to the severely disturbed who should be in residential treatment or closed settings.) The study found that more than half the children were inappropriately placed initially, and more than 2/5 were currently inappropriately placed. Some grim statistics: children age 12 to 18, one half inappropriately placed; children under three, 28% inappropriately placed; children from 3 to 9, 35% inappropriately placed.

About 45% of these children are in long term foster home care, 15% are in foster homes with prospects for adoption, 13% are in general institutions, 7% in group homes, and 4% in residential treatment centers. Characteristics of the foster child population have changed over the past decades. There are more older children in placement and more children with emotional or behavior problems.

The study concluded that almost 2,100 children, or 7.3%, should not be in foster care and should be returned home.

With respect to children in psychiatric hospital units, case studies showed that about half should be in residential treatment centers and the rest should be at home.

There are many reasons for the mismatching of children to placements, but principally it has been due to the rapid change in foster child population resulting in shortages in some types of facilities, and surpluses in others. It is thought that if all children in New York City were appropriately placed, about 3,700 fewer children would be in long term foster care.

Examining the reasons for the placement of children, the study found that almost 80% were placed because of parent-related problems. Even in the case of children requiring residential treatment because of emotional or behavior problems, and those in institutions for the

mentally retarded, as many as 19% were placed because their parents were unwilling to care for them.

The projection of needs for the next ten years takes into account expected trends and shifts in foster child population. Children coming into care will be older; in fact it is estimated that by 1980 half will be adolescents. In contrast, the proportion of children under six will decline. The pattern of placements, therefore, shows a projected need for many more residential treatment centers and group homes.

* * * * *

"A Plan of Action," the companion document to the comprehensive study of the current foster care system, outlines remedies for all deficiencies identified in the first report. Since these objectives cannot be immediately achieved, each is given a time frame, usually from two to three years.

Briefly, the Plan of Action proposes a restructuring of general institutions into residential treatment centers and a program of intensive staff training, a major expansion of group homes and group residences, with a mobilization of public support to overcome opposition and prejudice to community-based operations. Of highest priority is preventing entry into foster care, and developing preventive and supportive services for families at risk.

Severe deficiencies in adoptive planning will be given a major focus over the next three years, since the study indicates that more than twice as many children should be placed for adoption than are now in the adoption process. The New York City Department of Social Services will be asked to identify target populations, and to review and examine current foster homes to identify those which could become adoptive homes. All authorized agencies will be required to develop intensive training programs designed to highten staff sensitivity to each child's need for a permanent home and to increase staff skills and capabilities in adoptive planning.

The oversupply of foster homes will be eliminated by phasing out less acceptable homes. Recruitment practices and screening/training of foster parents will be improved. Finally, a roster will be developed of families which are interested in and eligible to become adoptive families; a particular emphasis will be made in finding homes for older children or those who are handicapped.

A system for monitoring trends in the characteristics of the child population will be instituted and an advisory task force will be convened to review the criteria in use to determine appropriateness of care and to recommend amendments or additions to Board rules and requirements.

The Plan also calls for periodic review and evaluation of the performance of agencies which the Board supervises, as a means of assessing the functioning of the entire system. Finally, a consistent criterion will be imposed to correct what the study calls a damaging inconsistency in decision-making with regard to the service needs of each individual child.

What will it cost? The study estimates that the appropriate pattern of placement would have cost $242 million in 1972. In 1985, the cost of appropriate placements will be about $104 million less.

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ENTIRE FIELD OF FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation

A resolution passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1969 created a Special Legislative Commission to study the entire field of foster child placement within the state for the purpose of evaluation and recommending changes needed to strengthen and improve the system. A 16 member commission was appointed, under the chairmanship of Senator Calvin C. Dykeman who had introduced the bill, the members, serving without compensation, to be four senators, four House members, the state director of social welface, the state administrator of child welfare services, the director of child health services, the chief justice of the Rhode Island family court, a senior social worker in pediatrics at the state hospital, a member of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the director of welfare services at the Roger Williams hospital, and one foster parent, all appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

The need for this Special Commission arose from a deep concern about the severe shortage of foster care resources in the state for children. Rhode Island, as in the case of many states, was faced with a spiralling trend in the demand for foster care. At the same time, children were coming into care with more deep seated problems. The result was a shortage of appropriate placement facilities, with children having to go into a crowded children's center or into institutions. There was a shortage of staff, exceedingly high case loads, a high rate of staff turnover and a replacement of increasingly young and inexperienced workers. These are only a few of the problems, but basic to these problems was inadequate funding at federal, state and voluntary levels. It was noted that the federal share in funding Rhode Island Child Welfare Services was only about 7.7%.

The Commission conceived its study of foster care as part of the total child welfare picture, and set about to examine all factors which affect the quality of a social service, starting with Rhode Island's history

and philosophy of foster care, its laws, regulations, policies, the organization and structure of its agencies, the professional qualifications of its social workers, etc.

An interim report of findings and recommendations was submitted to the General Assembly in 1970. It revealed the enormity of the task required to close the gaps in service. The Commission proposed that it be allowed to continue its work. A bill was subsequently passed, in 1973, which established a Commission on Foster Child Placement, under the Chairmanship of Senator Dykeman. Its role was to update earlier findings and make additional recommendations.

An updated analysis of changes which had transpired in the intervening years revealed a gratifying number of accomplishments, such as the appointment of a full time lawyer for Child Welfare Services, the development of 6 new community-based group homes, bringing the total to 12, an enlargement of social agency staff by 27 positions, a program to recruit and train special foster parents for developmentally disabled children, thereby averting institutionalization. There had been two increases in reimbursement rates for foster parents, passage of a subsidized adoption law and a broader Child Abuse law; institution of formalized courses for foster parents, and in-service training for child welfare staff.

The Commission moved ahead to a detailed review of all public resources, including placements for foster children. It conducted an analysis of the Child Welfare Service Agency's functions and processes, a review of the foster home application process, and the whole question of legal rights -- for children, for natural parents, for foster parents.

Because a program's goals and objectives have a direct relation to its quality, the Director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services was asked to state the philosophy, goals and needs of the public child welfare program to determine if they were more concerned with good practices, current demands and developing trends. This statement is included in the Commission's final report.

Testimony was heard over a 15-month period from professionals in the field of child welfare, and also in open meetings, from foster parents, interested groups and individuals.

The Commission's conclusions and recommendations recognized the high priority which must be given to the needs of foster children, and asked for a firm placement program for each child, with maximum use of the termination of parental rights statute for children which could lead to adoption; ensuring comprehensive medical care to children in foster care, protection of children's legal rights, a stronger commitment to, and recognition of foster parents, the creation of a permanent

Children's Code Commission to oversee laws, an annual review of foster care reimbursement rates to relate to cost of living rules, increased training for foster parents, a stronger commitment to and recognition of foster parents, and provisions for increased educational opportunities, intensive staff training, and a specific recommendation that Congress increase the federal appropriation for child welfare services. Not to be overlooked, was the Commission's recommendation for an ongoing Action for Foster Children Committee.

Having completed its task, the Commission was dissolved, leaving a basis for shaping future public policy as it relates to the entire field of child placement. Many of the Commission's recommendations can be implemented immediately by administrative action, while others will require new funds and new legislation.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES STUDY

Community Chest and Council
Social Planning Council
Cincinnati, Ohio (Hamilton County)

A study was commissioned by community leaders in Hamilton County to determine what services and resources were currently available with respect to supportive, supplemental and substitute care for Hamilton County children, and how they could be strengthened and improved. All types of care were covered -- protective services, foster care and adoption, homemaker, group homes and institutions, day care, and residential treatment services. A strong contributing motive for the study was the need for cooperation, coordination and a sharing of ideas between the various agencies providing services, public and voluntary, and with the community at large. For this reason the Community Chest and Council was chosen to undertake the project, thereby providing an opportunity for both sectors to participate in decisions regarding the provision of service and the appropriate role of each in the funding process.

A 34-member committee was organized; one-third voluntary sector people representing specific program interests, one-third representing public service providers, and one-third consumer/community interests. Additional professional expertise was obtained through the use of consultants.

Eight program subcommittees were established, with a directive to seek answers to three questions:

1. What services and resources currently exist in Hamilton County?

2. What services are needed? and,

3. What should be the relationship between public and private funding?

The Committee's preliminary report was issued in May 1975, with a final report to follow in January or February 1976.

This summary covers only the findings and recommendations of the Subcommittee on Foster Care, as contained in the preliminary report.

The seven-member foster care subcommittee, representing foster parents and Cincinnati-area agencies concerned with foster children identified two major areas of concern:

1. Funding
2. Administration

Insufficient funding was seen to have an impact on all aspects of foster care. Not only were reimbursement rates for foster care inadequate, but there were inconsistencies in rates between agencies, and even within agencies. Recruitment and retention of good foster families was therefore difficult, and there was a shortage of homes. Insufficient funding meant a shortage of agency staff to carry out good social work for children, there was little in the way of support or service for families at risk. There was a lack of foster parent education, particularly, for foster parents of children with special needs. Accounts management systems were outmoded and inefficient. As a consequence, there were long delays in paying accounts of doctors, dentists and merchants, and foster families had difficulty in obtaining medical and dental services because they were not welcome as patients. To remedy this situation -- the establishment of a centralized fiscal accounting system is recommended.

The Subcommittee recommends that the administrative system for foster care services be restructured, to provide central leadership. To achieve this, the immediate establishment of a Child Welfare Board to develop policy and to ensure community support and accountability is deemed advisable. Through public meetings, the Board would be able to dispel misconception about fiscal needs and policy.

As a means of overseeing and expediting good casework services for each child in foster care, a Citizen Advocacy Committee should be set up, comprised of professionals and private citizens. The CAC would make its services available to agencies and to families whose children were involved with those agencies. The Citizen Advocacy Committee, acting as ombudsman, would investigate and untangle bureaucratic problems holding up the process of permanent planning for a child in foster care. To be effective, the CAC would be given enforcement power.

The Subcommittee on Foster Care's report concludes with its statement of philosophy:

"This Foster Care Subcommittee is adamant in its belief that every child has the right to belong to a permanent family where he is wanted, cared for, and loved. This Subcommittee accepts the philosophy that foster care is a substitute, not a replacement, for an intact, functioning, biological family. We believe that foster care serves as a temporary vehicle toward helping repair broken families or moving a child into the permanence of adoption. However, even in the shortest term foster placement, or the necessity of long term foster placement, we believe that Hamilton County must increase the quality of its foster care programs by the necessary funding and structural changes to meet the above listed recommendations."

With respect to underfunding of children's services (not only foster care but other services as well) it was the Council's consensus that Title XX funds were not being utilized in the most efficient and effective way, that a county-wide strategy needed to be developed to increase the level of State participation in Title XX and that a mechanism be developed to assign priorities to Title XX expenditures in the county.

ARIZONA'S CHILDREN

A Summary

The Governor's Advisory Committee on Community Coordinated Child Care was activated in January, 1974 to coordinate and assess Arizona's services to children and their families. The Committee held public hearings in six areas of the state which were attended by approximately 1,200 people. Testimony was presented by 300 citizens representing parents and 200 agencies and organizations.

To present concerns and issues to the Governor, the Legislature and the public, the Committee is issuing a series of reports and seven topics which identify problems and propose action.

The 4-C Committee is comprised of volunteers who come from education, the state legislature, state, city and county government and the Indian Development District of Arizona. Several are workers or administrators engaged in services for families and children. There are doctors, business people and homemakers who have distinguished themselves by leadership in volunteer work for children in their communities.

The Committee's report and findings with respect to foster care are as follows:

COMMUNITY-BASED HOMES FOR TEENAGERS

Recommendation

With the aid of state and local funding support, short-term and long-term community-based living arrangements need to be provided and used for runaway and other teenagers who, through no fault of their own, are unable to remain living at home and cannot be placed in foster homes.

Rationale

About 20% of the referrals to Protective Services in Maricopa County are in relation to so-called incorrigibles or runaways whose parents refuse to allow them to return home. Testimony given throughout the state revealed that many of these teenagers, when referred for foster home placement, cannot be served due to lack of available qualified foster parents willing to care for teenagers. Maricopa County court records show that from May, 1973 through November, 1973, workers had to request 54 special court hearings to permit juveniles to remain in shelter care past a three-week period due to lack of foster homes. Community-based homes could provide therapy and counseling to enable those teenagers who are able to work their problems out with their parents, to return home, and others to receive the support and guidance of interested and understanding adults.

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION SERVICES FOR INDIAN CHILDREN

Recommendation

Agencies serving a substantial number of Indian children must develop foster care and adoptive parent recruitment procedures and staff training programs designed to meet the special needs of such children through coordination of tribal, Indian health services, State and private agencies, BIA social service staff and appropriate urban Indian consultants.

There is a strong belief among respected authorities that foster care or adoption procedures with familiar people (either of the same or near geographical area or the same cultural background) is a great asset to a child's successful adjustment. The Committee heard at the 4-C hearings that "a child has an innate right, if at all possible, to grow and develop in his own cultural setting."

Rationale

In 1972, the BIA was responsible for 384 Arizona children in foster care. Of that number, 268 were in non-Indian off-reservation homes, and 53 were in non-Indian homes on the reservation. Only 63 Indian children out of the 384 total found Indian foster families. The Department of Economic Security, according to 4-C testimony, has met with little success in recruiting Indian foster homes for Indian children who are under its care. Due mostly to large and undifferentiated case loads, inadequate staff training programs, a high rate of staff turnover and a lack of ongoing, supportive training programs

for foster parents, DES caseworkers usually do not have the time, expertise, or organizational mechanism to properly match and orient the child and the foster parents. Consequently, many Indian children are placed unsuccessfully, on a space-available basis, with little or no consideration of their special needs or their foster parent's ability to deal with certain problems.

FOSTER HOME CARE

Recommendation

The Legislature must respond affirmatively to request for increased appropriations to attract and hold foster homes of satisfactory quality, to staff their supervision and to provide necessary supportive services.

Rationale

The number of foster homes available has not been growing at a rate commensurate with the increase in the number of children needing substitute family care. Greater public awareness of the plight of children is certain to increase further the number of referrals of children needing qualified licensed foster homes. The shortage in the number of foster homes has been attributed to two major causes: (1) according to foster parents at the District IV hearing in Yuma, the room, board and clothing allotment, despite a recent increase, has not kept pace with the cost of living increase, which has forced these parents to constantly dip into their own limited household savings to buy the essentials for their foster children. At this hearing the Committee heard that "the daily rate for caring for a dog at a kennel equals or exceeds what we (DES) pay for foster children;" (2) because of the difficulty of matching the growing numbers of children with available, appropriate and competent foster parents, one-third of the requests for foster home placements are for children already in foster homes. This is largely due to the insufficient numbers of social workers to provide adequate screening and counseling. Consequently, many children are placed unsuccessfully, on a space-available basis with little or no consideration of the child's special needs or the foster parents' abilities to deal with certain problems.

ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE AND SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED CHILDREN

Recommendation

The Department of Economic Security - Mental Retardation, must establish as a priority, advocate in favor of, and seek state and

federal funds to support alternative forms of institutionalized care and services for developmentally disabled children. Group homes, day care facilities, and foster homes must be established which can serve these children. Appropriate training standards should be developed for statewide application to such programs.

In addition, as a long range and more innovative plan, the legislature should consider appropriating funds to parents of developmentally disabled children to enable these parents to provide home treatment and habilitation for their children.

Rationale

The concept of normalization is now nationally accepted as the correct underlying philosophy for programs for developmentally disabled children. Studies from around the country indicate that programs promoting normalization achieve a high degree of success in returning the developmentally disabled citizen to a productive and dignified role in the community. A vital part of the normalization thrust is the creation of high quality community based individual and group homes. With appropriate training, funding and continued support from the Department of Economic Security-Mental Retardation, many foster and group homes could be established statewide in communities near the families of these children.

An alternative to placing a child in either a community based program or in a large residential setting, is keeping the child at home. However, the families who choose to keep their developmentally disabled children at home are in effect being punished, since the children do not receive the medical, dental, and educational opportunities they would receive elsewhere. If funds were available, on a sliding scale, to support services to home-based, developmentally disabled children, more children would benefit from deinstitutionalized care at a far less cost to the taxpayer.

Copies of the "Arizona's Children" studies are available from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Bureau of Community Support, P.O. Box 6123, Phoenix, Arizona, 85005. Phone: (602) 271-5881.

APPENDIX

A PROCLAMATION

There is cause for concern about the Nation's foster children. From States and communities all across the Nation comes word that we are not adequately meeting the needs of foster children and their families; that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find enough foster family homes for children who must live apart from their own families; that funding does not meet the cost of maintaining a child in a foster home or of providing sufficient staff to assure good social work services.

Out of every thousand children in this country, four are foster children. Our concern is for the hardships poor quality care imposes on these children. Life has dealt them a savage blow and they must live with what is every child's nightmare—separation from their parents. Surely, these children deserve our kindest, most solicitous attention to their right to a happy, secure childhood.

There is a way for each of us to help foster children, and that is by volunteering for National Action for Foster Children. This "grass roots" program relies on concerned citizens in every community who join with social workers, educators, and public officials, and foster parents, to review problems and find solutions. It may be that new legislation is needed or changes in social work practices, or reallocation of funds under revenue sharing. The solution depends on every one of us acting as a compassionate advocate of children in need.

We call upon citizens everywhere to set aside a special week as a time to focus national attention on the needs of our foster children and to encourage citizens to use Action Week to plan and launch a definite program to improve services for them.

We, The National Action for Foster Children Committee do hereby designate the week of May 18 through 24, 1975, as National Action for Foster Children Week, 1975.

We urge Governors and Mayors to join us in this proclamation, and lend their support by actively participating in Action Week programs.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 15th day of March in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

Lillie E. Herndon, Chairperson
National Action for Foster Children Committee

President, National Congress of Parents and Teachers

American Foundation for the Blind

National Council of Juvenile Court Judges

American G.I. Forum Auxiliary

National Council of Negro Women

American Legion National Commission on Children and Youth

National Council of State Committees for Children and Youth

B'nai B'rith Women

National Foster Parents Association

Child Welfare League of America

National Urban League

Junior League of Pittsburgh

North American Indian Women's Association

National Center for Voluntary Action

United States Jaycees

GPO 994-927

Bill of Rights for Foster Children

Ratified in Congress Hall, Philadelphia

Saturday, the Twenty-eighth of April, Nineteen hundred and seventy three

EVEN more than for other children, society has a responsibility along with parents for the well-being of foster children. Citizens are responsible for acting to insure their welfare.

EVERY foster child is endowed with the rights inherently belonging to all children. In addition, because of the temporary or permanent separation from and loss of parents and other family members, the foster child requires special safeguards, resources, and care.

EVERY FOSTER CHILD HAS THE INHERENT RIGHT:

Article the first ..... to be cherished by a family of his own, either his family helped by readily available services and supports to reassume his care, or an adoptive family or by plan, a continuing foster family.

Article the second ..... to be nurtured by foster parents who have been selected to meet his individual needs and who are provided services and supports, including specialized education, so that they can grow in their ability to enable the child to reach his potential.

Article the third ..... to receive sensitive, continuing help in understanding and accepting the reasons for his own family's inability to take care of him, and in developing confidence in his own self-worth.

Article the fourth ..... to receive continuing loving care and respect as a unique human being ..... a child growing in trust in himself and others.

Article the fifth ..... to grow up in freedom and dignity in a neighborhood of people who accept him with understanding, respect and friendship.

Article the sixth ..... to receive help in overcoming deprivation or whatever distortion in his emotional, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual growth may have resulted from his early experiences.

Article the seventh ..... to receive education, training, and career guidance to prepare him for a useful and satisfying life.

Article the eighth ..... to receive preparation for citizenship and parenthood through interaction with foster parents and other adults who are consistent role models.

Article the ninth ..... to be represented by an attorney at law in administrative or judicial procedings with access to fair hearings and court review of decisions, so that his best interests are safeguarded.

Article the tenth ..... to receive a high quality of child welfare services, including involvement of the natural parents and his own involvement in major decisions that affect his life.

ATTEST:

Bruce H. Wyatt
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Mrs. James M. (Marie) Cox
MEMBER, NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Frederick (illegible)
ASSOCIATE CHIEF, CHILDREN'S BUREAU

CHILDREN'S BUREAU RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS WITH RESPECT TO CHILDREN AT RISK AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Children at Risk and the Child Welfare System pertains to that population of children at risk of being separated from their families or enduring long separations from families and family life.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children

The Interstate Compact provides a mechanism which eliminates the complex legal and administrative provisions involved in the interstate placement of foster or adoptive children and the interstate regulation of their care. This is particularly important in providing maximum opportunity for those with special characteristics, such as racially mixed and older children, groups of siblings, and physically handicapped and emotionally disturbed children, since resources may not be available in their state of residence. The project provides technical assistance to states interested in enacting the Compact and strengthens the service of the national secretariat maintained by the member states.

The Project is under the direction of:

Edward Weaver
American Public Welfare Association
1660 L Street, N.W. Suite 607
Washington, D.C. 20036

Increasing the Effectiveness of Foster Care

The purpose of this project is to increase the effectiveness of foster care experience through the use of a service contract which defines the roles, responsibilities, and specific tasks of children, natural parents, foster parents, and workers. The primary goals of the project are to protect the child from dysfunctional effects of separation from his own family, increase the chance for each child in foster care to achieve the most appropriate outcome, and reduce the length of time in foster care.

The Project Director is:

Edith Zober
Bureau of Family and Adult Services
Department of Social Services
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Foster Care Cost Assessment Instrument

The purpose of this project is to develop and test an instrument for use by foster care agencies and associations in assessing the true cost of living indices, the costs actually incurred by foster families, and the relationship of these costs to ideal standards of child care established by foster families and child care specialists advising on the project.

The Project Directors are:

Barbara H. Settles, Ph.D.
James D. Culley, Ph.D.
College of Home Economics and
College of Business and Economics
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware 19711

FREEING CHILDREN FOR PERMANENT PLACEMENT

The Children's Services Division of the State of Oregon has been funded by the Office of Child Development for a research and demonstration project, now in its third and final year, to develop principles and policies to be adopted by States to aid in solving the problem of children remaining in long-term foster care. Under the project, child welfare service staff are being trained in the procedures of termination of parental rights and in developing understanding and acceptance by courts and community. Under the system being set up by the project, the parents of children considered unlikely to return home, are offered rehabilitation based on psychological or psychiatric evaluation, and if they do not respond, court procedures are initiated to terminate their parental rights, thereby clearing the way for adoption of the child. In the case of children for whom adoption is not feasible or possible, formalized long-term foster care placement is arranged. The objective, to give a child the opportunity for a secure and permanent home.

The project is now involved in the more difficult task of changing state systems so that the principles demonstrated can be an on-going part of children's services. Built into this project is a system of case review and evaluation for each child so that he or she will not become "lost" in the foster care system.

The Office of Child Development will disseminate information on this project as a national model.

STANDARDS FOR FOSTER FAMILY SERVICES SYSTEMS WITH GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO PUBLIC AGENCIES

The American Public Welfare Association, working in conjunction with the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, has developed Standards for Foster Family Services Systems. Participating in this work were Federal, State, local, public and voluntary agencies. The recommendations of every level of child welfare staff -- including administrators, supervisors, case-workers, and foster parents were sought and utilized, as were the recommendations of consumers of services and representatives of minority group. The standards specify requirements in such areas as training of agency staff including foster parents, workloads, qualifications of foster family homes, and citizen involvement in planning. The guidelines are designed to encourage the development of a comprehensive foster family services system that will provide for cooperation among many community services -- child welfare agencies, schools, courts, police departments, and many others. The two levels of standards are:

- Basic Standards: Minimum requirements now met or exceeded by roughly one-third of the State Departments across the country.

- Goal Standards: A level of high quality service which communities can work to achieve over a specified period of time.

The Children's Bureau and the American Public Welfare Association working together are prepared to provide technical assistance to State social service departments that wish to implement the standards, upon request. State departments will be assisted in studying the present quality of their foster family services, in developing a plan with time - limits for improving services and to monitor the program. As of the end of 1975, 15 states have formally requested consultation toward improving their foster family services system.

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS

Immediate Protection

Primary Prevention

Comprehensive Emergency Services for Children in Crises are important to a good foster family service program. These services provide immediate, sensitive, informed response to any complaint or referral of a child-at-risk 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Not only does Comprehensive Emergency Services intervene when there is neglect but also when child abuse is obvious or suspected, it undoubtedly serves to identify precursors of child abuse and by providing services, to prevent further development of basic disfunctions.

The Comprehensive Emergency Services program was developed through a Children's Bureau grant to the Nashville/Davidson County unit of the Tennessee Department of Public Welfare. It was evaluated using hard data from a year prior (1969-1970) to start-up of the 3-year Children's Bureau grant, which ended in 1973-1974. Nashville/Davidson County has a population of approximately 500,000.

The total number of referrals of children in crises increased over that period from 1,260 to 2,422, an increase of 92%. The suspected child abuse referrals of children in crises increased 264%. They accounted for more than 6% of the 2,422 children referred. However, of the children who required emergency placement in a foster family home, 23% were victims of child abuse.

What is a Comprehensive Emergency Services program? It begins with a community coordinating committee, which involves the participation of all agencies and organizations in the community responsible for any aspect of child protection. This includes the department of social services, the juvenile court, police department, voluntary agencies, citizen advocates, volunteers, etc.

The components of CES are:

(1) A continuing program of public education so that the service will be understood, trusted and used;

(2) 24 hour answering service with a social service intake worker readily available;

(3) Carefully selected and trained emergency caretakers to look after the child in his own home, with back-up 24-hour homemakers and teaching homemakers;

(4) Emergency foster family homes in the neighborhood to accept and comfort a child at any time of the day or night;

(5) Emergency group homes for teenagers who can not fit into an emergency foster home;

(6) Emergency shelter for the entire family in case of fire,etc.;

(7) Immediate access to a hospital child abuse team for diagnosis and treatment;

(8) And most important, an out-reach and follow-through team to begin immediately within the next 12 hours, to work with the parents/ natural family toward resolving the problems which precipitated the crises. If this last component is not immediate and effective, all the previous efforts will not be effective.

Facts demonstrated that when the above components were all fully functioning, children in crises including those in danger of abuse, received the service and care most helpful to them. The number of children who later developed delinquency records dropped from 44 to none and the number of children on whom a subsequent neglect petition was filed in juvenile court dropped from 196 to 23, a decrease of 88%. Institutional placement dropped drastically--from 482 to 67.

With facts such as these and others which could be cited, the Children's Bureau decided to provide a contract for dissemination and utilization of the Comprehensive Emergency Services program model. (The Nashville/ Davidson County Program is being continued without Children's Bureau grant money by the Tennessee Department of Human Services).

In July 1974, the contract was signed with the Nashville Observatory, which is not connected with the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Provided through this contract are: (1) the issuance of a Community Guide, a Training Guide, and other materials, (2) operation of a resource exchange center, (3) arrangements for staff seriously interested in CES to visit the on-going program in Nashville, and (4) the provisions upon request by any community seriously considering estab-

lishment of CES, of technical assistance and consultation by phone, letter, and visit to that community.

Since the establishment of the Center for CES at the Urban Observatory, 85 sites, cities or counties in 39 States have begun the process of establishing a CES program or adding to the components already functioning so that the complete array of services will be available to children and families who need them.

To receive any of the CES material above, contact:

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Nashville, Tennessee 37210
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CODE OF ETHICS FOR FOSTER PARENTS

The National Foster Parent Association has written a Code of Ethics for Foster Parents to provide a solid moral and ethical base to strengthen foster family care. The Code of Ethics was presented to the members of the National Association of Foster Parents at their annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1975.

David Evans, National President, observed that the Code of Ethics and the Bill of Rights for Foster Children, adopted at the Philadelphia Conference in 1973, are the two most important statements of our commitment to children and our increasing efforts to improve the quality of care and service to foster children. Ratification of the Code and the Bill of Rights is being sought.

The proposed Code of Ethics states:

PREAMBLE

Foster family care for children is based on the theory that no unit in our society other than the family, has ever been able to provide the special qualities needed to nurture children to their fullest mental, emotional and spiritual development. If, for a certain period, a family ceased to provide these special qualities, substitute care must be used. It is recognized that ideally, foster care is temporary in nature. Parents who provide foster family care must have commitment, compassion and faith in the dignity and worth of children, recognize and respect the rights of natural parents, and be willing to work with the child placing agency to develop and carry out a plan of care for the child.

Foster care is a public trust that requires that the practitioners be dedicated to service for the welfare of children, that they utilize a recognized body of knowledge about human beings and their interaction, and that they be committed to gaining knowledge of community resources which promote the well-being of all without discrimination.

Each foster parent has an obligation to maintain and improve the practice of fostering, constantly to examine, use and increase the knowledge upon which fostering is based, and to perform the service of fostering with integrity and competence.

PRINCIPLES

1. I regard as my primary obligation the welfare of the child served.

2. I shall work objectively with the agency in effecting the plan for the child in my care.

3. I hold myself responsible for the quality and extent of the services I perform.

4. I accept the reluctance of the child to discuss his past.

5. I shall keep confidential from the community information pertaining to any child placed in my home.

6. I treat with respect the findings, views and actions of fellow foster parents, and use appropriate channels, such as a foster parent organization, to express my opinions.

7. I shall take advantage of available opportunities for educating and training designed to upgrade my performance as a foster parent.

8. I respect the worth of all individuals regardless of race, religion, sex or national ancestry in my capacity as a foster parent.

9. I accept the responsibility to work toward assuring that ethical standards are adhered to by any individual or organization providing foster care services.

10. I shall distinguish clearly in public between my statements and actions as an individual, and as a representative of a foster parent organization.

11. I accept responsibility for working toward the creation and maintenance of conditions within the field of foster family care which enable foster parents to uphold the principles of this code.